

The spokes stop here?
SFAF, LA Center have questions
for Dan Pallotta's AIDS Ride.
page 13

Changing priorities in DC
LGBT groups tackle politics
in aftermath of Sept. 11.
page 14



Gay artists open their studios
Gay & Lesbian Artists Alliance
part of 26th SF Open Studios.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 40 • 4 October 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Kickoff of new domestic violence campaign nixes LGBTs

by Katie Szymanski

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a new program sponsored by San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan in cooperation with several community-based organizations will put the client-hairdresser relationship to good use by arming stylists with the tools to recognize and help customers who may be in abusive relationships.



Terence Hallinan

The project will reportedly benefit heterosexual and LGBT people alike. By aside from a brief mention of the involvement of Community United Against Violence, the campaign's official unveiling for the media on Monday, October 1 brushed aside LGBT people and did not recognize gay men as victims at all.

"The San Francisco Hairdresser Project" — modeled in part after a successful effort 20 years ago that enlisted hairdressers to recognize signs of skin cancer — will take advantage of the candid relationships developed at barber shops and salons, and teach hairdressers to look for signs of choking, bruising, and defensive marks on or near the head, neck, and scalp. Hairdressers who suspect abuse, as well as those who just want to tell their clients about their involvement in the program, will refer those in need to various city services that can help.

"Hairdressers are uniquely situated to discover signs of abuse," Hallinan said at the news conference and

page 23 ►

Folsom fair helps, but gay businesses still slow

by Ed Walsh

Although Sunday's 18th annual Folsom Street Fair provided a much needed boost, business in the Castro was down as much as 50 percent of what it normally would be for the days leading up to the South of Market street fair, according to Patrick Batt, president of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro.

"The fair brings in a huge influx of money generally but this year was down dramatically from previous years," said Batt. "Usually the tourists arrive on a Tuesday or Wednesday and stay a week, but this year they arrived on Thursday or Friday and many of them left today," said Batt on Monday, October 1.

Batt noted that business in the Castro, like many other parts of the country that rely heavily on tourism, fell sharply after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"All of a sudden the tourists were gone," he said. "Normally, we have a lot of tourists in September and they weren't around. And locals were shell-shocked, they weren't out buying. But you could tell just walking around that there was a big dive in business because no one was on the streets."

Batt said he's optimistic the worst is over. "It's picked up a little bit this past week," he said. "It's certainly not back to normal but maybe people have hit their depth and they're coming back."

Batt said he hasn't heard of any businesses that have had to lay off workers, but that's something he plans to ask about during a meeting of merchants scheduled for today,

Thursday, October 4.

Bill Boeddiker, co-owner along with his partner, Bob O'Halloran, of the popular Parker House guest house on Church Street, echoed Batt's optimism. He said the upcoming Castro Street Fair and Halloween should help.

"The phones have been crazy today," Boeddiker told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, October 1. "We're almost back to normal for October."

Boeddiker noted that his business took a huge hit for September, generally a very busy time.

"The week of the [September 11] event, we had folks who couldn't get out," he said. "If they were stranded, we didn't charge them the first night and then charged half-price for the remainder of their stranded stay. That week we took a big chunk because September is usually such a busy time. The next week we were half full."

Boeddiker predicted the gay travel industry would quickly bounce back.

"I think gay travelers are definitely going to be the first group back in the air because it's a big part of the freedom of being gay," he said.

Kelly Chamberlain, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau, told the *B.A.R.* that since the September 11 attacks, hotel occupancy in San Francisco has been in the "20-percent range." During the same time period last year, occupancy was 88.5 percent. Chamberlain said she didn't know how much a boost the Folsom Street Fair may have been to San Francisco tourism because the bureau doesn't keep track of business brought in from street fairs. ▼



Miguel Gutier was one of more than 250,000 people at Sunday's Folsom Street Fair.

Economic downturn, terror attacks impact LGBT groups' fundraising

by Matthew S. Bajko

Already faced with a faltering economy as they kicked off fall fundraising drives, executives at nonprofit LGBT organizations are preparing to see those efforts hampered by the terror attacks of September 11.

Benefits and events have been postponed or canceled. Direct mail pieces receive less of a response or sit in boxes waiting to be sent to potential donors. Solicitation pieces are being rewritten. Gala events are being toned down.

"Looking at the year-end, I would be very surprised if the attacks of September 11 don't show up on the bottom line," said Peter Teague, executive director of Horizons Foundation.

Whether they run smaller operations serving the Bay Area or head national queer groups, directors have been reexamining how they proceed with their fundraising this year.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission has postponed several East Coast events planned for late October. The San Francisco staff had been on a training retreat in New York the day of the attacks but were not near the World Trade Center that day.

With board members, donors, and sever-

page 19 ►



A view of ground zero near the collapsed twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City shows the site was still smoldering on September 26.

INSIDE

BAR Talk	46
Classifieds	24
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	44
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	30
Out & About	40
OutRight	11
Personals	49
Sports Complex	22
Survive AIDS	20
Transmissions	10



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SF holds large anti-war rally and march

by Liz Highleyman

An estimated 8,000 activists gathered in San Francisco's Dolores Park last Saturday, September 29 for a rally against war, racial scapegoating, and restrictions on civil liberties. A spirited march through the Mission District at mid-day stretched for several blocks. The rally and march were initiated by the ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition and endorsed by dozens of local groups. About five counterdemonstrators spoke in favor of U.S. military action.

The LGBT community was well represented at the rally and march, with groups including the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, Pride at Work, Lesbian and Gay Activist Insurrection, and Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism/Queers for Palestine. Openly gay Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington was among those carrying the lead banner in the march.

"War is the scariest thing I can imagine. I'm not afraid to admit that, to be seen as a 'wimp,' a homophobic designation if ever I heard one," said longtime activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca, who marched with the Milk Club. "Justice must be done, no one's denying that. But dropping bombs and killing innocent people is not the solution."

He continued, "This tragedy has afforded us an opportunity as a nation to examine our foreign policies. Will we continue to recruit and train the future bin Ladens? Will we continue to put Taliban into power? The Taliban has been in power since 1996, we've known of their horrible oppressive ways for five years, yet why are we only now speaking out against them?"

Saturday's multigenerational and multicultural crowd was quite possibly the largest Bay Area anti-war gathering since the Vietnam era. Peace signs, dancing hippies, and a painted Veterans for Peace bus recalled those earlier days, but radical cheerleaders and hip-hop musicians gave the event an unmistakable contemporary edge.

Speakers at the rally nearly unanimously expressed their grief



Thousands of people attended anti-war rally and march in Dolores Park last Saturday.

over the terrorist strikes of September 11 and their condolences to those who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. But speaker after speaker emphasized that military action against countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq would kill thousands more innocent civilians and would not make the U.S. safe from terrorism. Several speakers denounced U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, including military aid to Israel and sanctions against Iraq, while others spoke out against global corporate capitalism.

Representatives of local Arab and Muslim communities spoke out against racist attacks on Arab and Muslims (and those who look like them) in the U.S. As marchers passed the Arab-owned City Blend Cafe on 16th Street, which in recent days has had its windows smashed, activists wrote supportive messages in chalk on the sidewalk.

Other rally speakers decried attempts to curtail civil liberties in the wake of the September 11 attacks, including Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-California) proposal to ban all foreign student visas for six months. Despite a climate that discourages dissent, Zulma Oliveras, a Puerto Rican lesbian who works at the Women's Building and was an emcee at this year's Dyke March, urged activists not be afraid to take stronger action.

"We can march every day, but this will not really stop war," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We need national strikes, civil disobed-

ience, and direct action by youth and women."

Saturday's rally was one of dozens held this past weekend throughout the U.S. and the world, representing a growing anti-war movement that has sprung up with amazing speed compared to the response to past U.S. military actions.

Several thousand activists rallied in the nation's capital, including about a thousand with the Anti-Capitalist Convergence, the remnants of a massive protest planned against the International Monetary Fund/World Bank meeting, which was scheduled for last weekend but canceled after the attacks. AAC protesters and police engaged in a few scuffles, several activists and D.C. Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer were hit with tear gas, and about a dozen people were arrested. Other large rallies and marches took place in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, and Mexico City.

Although no large-scale military actions had taken place as the B.A.R. went to press, activists have several upcoming anti-war events on tap. These include a teach-in on October 7 at 4:30 p.m. at Mission High School, featuring authors Alexander Cockburn and Christian Parenti, Eyad Kishawi of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, and musician Utah Phillips. Another large anti-war march is planned for Saturday, October 20 in downtown San Francisco. ▼

Donate while dining

Restaurants to raise funds for Red Cross

by Katie Szymanski

The world is in conflict and the economy is suffering, but hey, a person still has to eat. The good news is, your next meal out can help to alleviate some suffering if it's enjoyed at one of several leading local restaurants participating in "Bite Night" next week.

Conceived by Internet businessman Michael Volpatt and restaurant worker Michelle Cabrera of the Castro's Mecca, "Bite Night" will take place on Wednesday, October 10, when cooperating restaurants will donate 10 percent of their evening dinner proceeds to the American Red Cross, one of the major organizations providing life-saving services to

the victims of the terrorist attacks.

"This whole thing started when I got angry about the situation, and I called Mecca to see if they would be interested in helping to do a fundraiser," according to Volpatt, who has also enlisted the support of the San Francisco chapter of the Association of Internet Professionals to help publicize the evening. "Michelle answered the phone, and we started talking, and the two of us teamed up to get other restaurants involved."

LGBT-friendly restaurants are heavily involved in the effort, as participating venues include the Castro's Mecca, John Frank, Red Grill, and Blue. The Mission's Delina, Potrero's Aperto, and downtown's Il Fornaio have also joined the efforts, as have Berkeley's Chez Panisse, West Portal's Bocca Rotis,

Chinatown's Grand Palace, and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel's Silks. Rounding out the list are Wasabi and Ginger at Van Ness and Vallejo, and the Royal Exchange downtown.

"Bite Night" is a one-time event, so plan your Wednesday accordingly.

"Call and make your reservations now," recommended Volpatt.

The funds raised will be presented to the Bay Area American Red Cross on October 12, which since September 11 has dispatched dozens of its trained volunteers to the disaster scenes in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

For more information on the event, or to add your restaurant to the list of participating establishments, call (415) 401-6240. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fund set up for LGBT victims of attacks

by Matthew S. Bajko and David Batterson

Whether raising funds or participating in memorials, queer Americans are doing what they can to help those impacted by the terror attacks of September 11. The gestures of support have been as simple as a moment of silence at the Folsom Street Fair to the Lesbian and Gay Law Association (LeGal) offering legal assistance for people with LGBT-related legal problems in any way related to the tragedy.

In New York, more than 1,000 members and allies of the LGBT community packed New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center Monday night, October 1, to remember and honor those lost in and affected by the attacks.

"This was a moving event that brought together those in our community who have been touched by the tragic events," said Richard Burns, executive director of the community center. "It was a way to say goodbye to members of our community who were victims of this attack and a chance to recognize our heroes."

The event also highlighted the many ways gay community orga-

nizations have responded to the crisis and served to renew the LGBT community's commitment to combat hate, intolerance, and prejudice.

The event, co-sponsored by more than 80 community and AIDS organizations from New York and across the country, was hosted by Kate Clinton and featured musical performances by soprano Aprile Millo, vocalist Joi Cardwell, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, and the Gay Gotham Chorus.

The program ended with a candle-lighting ceremony and a moment of silence for all those who had lost loved ones or had otherwise been affected by the attacks.

"This memorial was a much needed opportunity to share our grief and acknowledge our community's loss of families and loved ones," said Joan M. Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "Our hope is that our community's heroes - whether they sacrificed themselves to protect others, put themselves in harm's way to minister to the injured, or lived brave, open lives as gay Americans - will be remembered and celebrated."

The Gay and Lesbian Center of San Diego hosted a candlelight memorial three days after the attacks, and raised almost \$1,000 for domestic partners of GLBT firefighters, police, and rescue workers who were affected.

Also in San Diego, the VAGINA (Vibrant Angry Grrrls Invoking National Attention) organization established a GLBT Survivor's Fund for those who lost their lovers. Contact info: GLBT Survivor's Fund, attn: Sherry Wright, 3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA 92163; (619) 299-6397 ext. 121; e-mail: glbtsurvivors@hotmail.com.

Terese Farnen with the group said, "This is a nationwide effort to help all GLBT victims or partners of victims of the terrorist attacks. We're working on getting Stonewall Foundation to distribute the money and have the money filter directly to them."

The Stonewall Community Foundation in New York has established the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Disaster Relief Fund to help those LGBT New Yorkers directly impacted by the World Trade Center disaster. Established two weeks ago, the fund has received more than \$5,000 in pledged donations.

page 23 ►

28th annual Castro Street Fair on Sunday

by Matthew S. Bajko

The urban, gay equivalent of a suburban, straight block party, the Castro Street Fair turns 28 this Sunday when the neighborhood convenes for the city's fall fling.

"The Castro Street Fair is a celebration of the greater Castro community. We just celebrate everything that goes on in the Castro," said Steve Gaynes, the fair's board president. "The best talent comes out on the street and shows its stuff."

Unlike the annual Pink Saturday event held during Pride and

the Halloween party, the Castro fair is not as rowdy or bawdy of a time.

"I think a lot more of the neighborhood shows up for the Castro Street Fair versus some of the other events where it is a more regional event," said Gaynes. "We think of it as the khaki shorts crowd."

Created by the late Harvey Milk in 1973, the Castro Street Fair has evolved from what Pablo Heising called "revolutionary" back in the early days to a more "playful atmosphere."

"The fair has changed in the sense that the neighborhood has changed. People were coming out

of the closet in large numbers and being very forceful about it," said Heising, who has been with the fair since the early years and has been its executive director for the last seven. "The first 10 years of the fair it felt like we were on the cutting edge of a gay revolution in America and the world. It is not the same thing anymore. We are here now, established and having a good time."

Since those early days, the fair has turned into a major fundraiser for local nonprofits servicing the Castro District. That initiative began four years ago when Gaynes

next page ►

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Party with animals at SF Zoo's first 'gay day'

by Matthew S. Bajko

For the first time, the San Francisco Zoo is rolling out the rainbow carpet for the city's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community and turning its lion house into a tea dance venue for its official "gay day" event.

Hosted by Ivan Cano Productions, a gay event-planner that throws the Bump after-hour parties, the special day this Saturday, October 6 will benefit the San Francisco Zoological Society.

"I have been doing events a long time, and my philosophy has been that our night life in San Francisco has been unimpressive. I thought it would be cool to have something like this happen here," explained Ivan Cano as to why he pitched the idea to the zoo. "They were very willing and loved the idea. They thought it would be a host to have our audience here doing an event like this."

Although he modeled the zoo event after other gay days held at Water World, Disney theme parks and the San Diego Zoo, Cano said he hopes his event isn't perceived as just another party for gay men. Event planners are hoping to attract both circuit boys and gay moms and dads with their kids and are giving away free tickets to Bay Area AIDS organizations for their clients.

The day is broken up into two parts, with the first half focused on enjoying the zoo and its attractions. Cano said he hopes lesbians, leather queens, and female illusionists along with elderly gay men and lesbians all feel welcome to take part.

"It would be nice to incorporate everyone into this event," he said. "This is something as a com-

munity we can work together on to directly help an environment in our own backyard."

For the zoo, it is a chance to create a gay-friendly image after a group of drag kings were denied access to the zoo's children's area for a photo shoot in the spring.

"It was a misunderstanding and I take full blame for any of the misconceptions. I thought I was speaking on behalf of the zoo, and I was in the wrong," explained Nancy Chan, zoo spokeswoman. "The fact is our zoo is a community-based zoo and we like to be available to and open for all audiences."

While the zoo's Web site for upcoming events does not include gay day, Chan said it is not because the zoo isn't trying to promote it. "We are in middle of re-vamping the Web site. We have given the info to the outside person putting it up," she said last week.

With the zoo often overlooked by city residents, Chan said she expects this will be the first time many people in the gay community have seen the zoo.

"The gay community isn't traditionally an audience that comes to the zoo. Adults don't seem to think of coming to the zoo," she said.

Terri Tarantino, director of events at the zoo, is going out of her way to ensure gay day guests have a good time. The zoo will have a special giraffe feeding along with meet and greets with keepers for the meerkats and prairie dogs, snakes, Asian elephants, gorillas, hippos, and bears. A ceremony will be held with the event's honorary co-chairs Supervisor Mark Leno and Donna Sachet, "first lady of District 8," in the afternoon at the zoo's Wild Life Theatre.

The second part of the day will be a tea dance in the zoo's lion house with DJ Don Bishop from Palm Springs. As the crowd enjoys the music, the zoo's lions can enjoy the crowd from their cages.

And while the animals are accustomed to having dance events in their home, Cano said extra steps are being taken to provide for their safety. More speakers will be used so the volume can be lowered on each, and the lights are being angled so as not to hit the caged areas.

"The zoo has had music, DJs and orchestras inside the lion house, so we will not be the first ones to do something like this," said Cano.

To ensure a better turnout for his event, Cano reduced the ticket prices for the tea dance from \$30/\$35 at the door to \$20/\$25 at the door.

"It would be nice to have a strong presence there," he said. "I want to make sure it is successful and well attended."

The zoo will be open to the general public for the gay day, so those attending the gay day events are asked to wear red to show their support. Gay Day @ San Francisco Zoo will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 6. The zoo's normal admission prices will be in effect.

The tea dance will be held from 5 to 11:30 p.m. The zoo's south gate entrance on Herbst Road will be used as the main entrance to the tea dance.

Tickets for the tea dance are sold separately, and can be purchased at www.gaydaysfzoo.com or at Body Body Wear, 535 Castro Street. For more information, call (415) 431-2876. AIDS organizations should call (415) 753-7071 to obtain tickets for their clients. ▼

Castro St. Fair

◀ previous page

left the Folsom Street Fair to join the Castro Street Fair's board. This year, the board expects to collect \$75,000 in gate donations to benefit 22 organizations.

"We made \$60,000 last year that we gave back to the community. Some of the other special projects we are paying for is the rainbow flag that flies above the Castro," said Gaynes. "The fair underwrites all costs of donations so 100 percent of the money collected at the gates goes to the community groups."

During the fair, local artisans will be selling their wares and local groups will take to six different stages to entertain the crowd. Once again, there will be a main stage at Market and Castro streets, a Latin stage at Collingwood, a techno dance stage in the parking lot behind Walgreens, a country dance stage at Castro and 18th streets, and a swing stage at 18th and Hartford.

"Come with your dancing shoes because there is going to be plenty of opportunity to get down and have a good time," advised Heising.

Headliners include Cheer San Francisco, Naked Men Singing, Blackberry, Judea Eden, Wild Mango, Bonnie Hayes, and Pansy Division. Making their debut this year will be the Gay and Lesbian

Marching Band, which will kick off the fair as it winds its way through the event toward the main stage.

Also new this year will be a community stage set up on 18th Street. The stage will be a place "where people can strut their stuff dancing, singing, reciting poetry, whatever they want," Gaynes said.

Mindful of heightened fears surrounding public gatherings after the terror attacks on September 11, the fair producers have been meeting with the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Patrol Special Police to discuss the fair's security measures.

"The Castro fair is a very light atmosphere. There is very little sense of violence in the neighborhood," said Heising. "While there are a lot of people, you don't have to fear anything at all. Everyone is out to have a good time and not to do anything harmful or aggressive to anybody."

The fair's board also hopes that this year it has less problems with neighbors and businesses in the area that are affected by the closure of the streets. The board has tried to work with concerned groups in planning the event.

"The big change in the fair is that we gathered more community input and we feel more welcomed in the community than ever before," said Gaynes.

Fliers are sent to area residents notifying them of the fair's date and alternate bus routes. The fair's

staff meets with the Eureka Valley and Duboce Triangle neighborhood groups and area merchants throughout the year to apprise them of their plans.

And Heising meets with new merchants to alert them to what to expect during the fair. Last week, he was meeting with the Pottery Barn's store manager to go over how his business could be affected.

"I explained to the Pottery Barn that there is no way to predict what will happen. Depending on what the weather is like, a lot of people may come inside to shop if it is windy," said Heising. "Otherwise, they stay on the street."

As president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, Patrick Batt said he works with the fair organizers to discuss their plans and work out any concerns his business group may have with the event. Even though his store Auto-Erotica sees sales slump on the day of the fair, Batt said for the third year in a row he will be volunteering.

"It negatively affects my business personally. Not too many people want to walk around the fair carrying a dildo," said Batt, who will oversee collection of funds at the gates.

The Castro Street Fair takes place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 7. For more information, call (415) 467-3354 or visit www.castrostreetfair.org. ▼

Fall fruit artworks featured at fundraiser

by Matthew S. Bajko

Food For Thought is going to the gourds this weekend. The Forestville-based non-profit is hosting "Calabash! A Celebration of Gourds, Art and the Garden" this Sunday, October 7 to support its work with AIDS patients in Sonoma County.

The event is a silent auction featuring fine calabash art by more than 60 artists from the North Bay and beyond. Fine organic food and wine will be served, and musicians will entertain the crowd with music played on gourd instruments.

In addition to being a fundraiser, the event is also a memorial tribute to Liz Cunningham, a Sonoma County artist and AIDS activist. Cunningham, who died of AIDS in 1995, hand-crafted exquisite inlaid, polished vessels and percussion instruments from gourds of all shapes and sizes.

With her partner, Valerie James, she created the art of Calabash and was a nationally recognized fine artist and craftsman. Cunningham also served on the Sonoma County AIDS Commission and on the board of Face to Face.

All proceeds from Calabash!

directly support the Food For Thought garden. Organic fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal and culinary herbs surround the food bank facility in Forestville. These gardens support and extend Food For Thought's work which is to provide groceries, nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals, and compassionate care to more than 425 clients a year in Sonoma County.

Calabash! will take place from 1-5 p.m., Sunday, October 7 at Food For Thought, 6550 Railroad Avenue, Forestville. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and can be purchased by calling (707) 887-1647. ▼

Queer gathering kicks off in Bay Area today

by Katie Szymanski

For those who are sick of gay Republican faces and bored by issues like gay Boy Scouts, a series of progressive queer events beginning today in the Bay Area could be the answer to their untapped activist and sexual energies.

"Queeruption" is a five-day gathering of queers from around the world, previously held in London in 1998 and New York City in 1999. Participants will come together in San Francisco and the East Bay "to share ideas and strategies about activism, social change, survival - and how to have a good time in the process," according to

organizers.

Roundtable forums, performances, open mikes, music, screenings, and political actions in the San Francisco Bay Area will take place through Monday October 8. All events are for all ages and are free, from the sex work forums in the Mission District on

page 23 ►

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 31, Number 40
4 October 2001**PUBLISHER**
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OPEN FORUM

Charity needed at home

In these weeks following September 11, we have learned about heroes such as Mark Bingham and others from the community, who have died or been injured in the terrorist attacks. As we struggle to return to some semblance of normalcy, we cannot forget that there are still heroes in our midst, just as there were before hate of America altered the world. People living with AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses show us every day that they are trying to change the world for the better: whether it be through fundraising for various organizations or helping in HIV prevention efforts here and abroad. Activists earlier this year were successful in forcing the issue of AIDS medications for developing countries onto the world stage, and those efforts must continue: people are still dying and becoming infected every day from this epidemic.

In this spirit, the leather community turned out in force last weekend for the 18th annual Folsom Street Fair. Bob Goldfarb, board president of the South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events, told us that over 250,000 people attended the fair, which was great considering that the country is still in mourning for the victims of the September 11 attacks and travelers are still nervous. Proceeds from the fair (expected to be significant) will be distributed in a few weeks to several community organizations, including those that provide services to PWAs and queer youth. Locally, people will have another opportunity to help out local LGBT groups when they donate at the gates of this Sunday's Castro Street Fair.

That's important because nonprofits across the board face a drop in donations as a result of September 11. The American public has responded overwhelmingly to the tragedy, raising hundreds of millions of dollars for relief efforts. When there is such an outpouring of funds to one cause, other charitable groups and the clients that they serve can get overlooked. While no one denies that the thousands of survivors of the attacks need financial and other assistance, we cannot forget the groups that help PWAs, LGBTQ youth, and others closer to home.

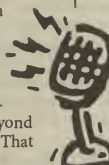
In the midst of all the news about non-

profits and their bottom lines, there was another interesting development this week involving the California AIDS Ride that is produced by Pallotta Teamworks to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. Apparently, SFAF and the L.A. Center are seriously questioning producer Dan Pallotta's contract and what representatives from the two groups term "cost containment." In other words, Pallotta is apparently trying to bill the organizations for expenses that may be above and beyond what the groups are willing to pay. That SFAF and the L.A. Center are in serious negotiations with Pallotta may signal an end to his extravagant, slick fundraiser that, while successful, brings in less money per dollar pledged than it should. We have long argued that the AIDS Ride is a bloated affair that costs too much to produce at the expense of money going to direct client services.

While it likely is unrelated to the September 11 events, the news surrounding the AIDS Ride is important because it means that perhaps SFAF finally has grown weary of Pallotta's production costs, and may at long last have realized that there are other ways to raise money. As an example, the AIDS Walk, produced by another firm and benefiting SFAF, has lower overhead costs than the bike ride. SFAF officials have said that they have not paid any of the disputed invoices and, while they declined to give a dollar amount, we suspect that it's in the high six-figure range.

Pallotta may have filed one inflated invoice too many and we urge SFAF's board of directors to exercise its fiduciary

duty in demanding a full accounting from Pallotta Teamworks. In these troubled times, nonprofit organizations need all the help they can get; they don't need to be taken advantage of by for-profit companies. ▼



Editorial



MARK BINGHAM: AMERICAN HERO

A time for re-commitment

by Judy A. Guerin

The tragic events of September 11 have profoundly changed the lives of all Americans. Nowhere is this more true than for sexual minorities, especially the gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, SM-leather-fetish, and various alternative sexual expression communities. Accordingly, it is essential that our communities undertake a serious reassessment of, and a recommitment to, the work we have all been doing toward greater tolerance, freedom, and respect.

The intense impact on our communities is apparent when one considers the following facts:

First and foremost, Americans may have to find ways to resist or deal with greater governmental intrusions into our liberties and privacy. While these intrusions will affect all Americans, they are of particular concern to our communities, for whom privacy and freedom of assembly are such central issues.

Second, there is a very real risk that these intrusions into privacy and increased powers for law enforcement officials could become intertwined with latent hostilities toward sexual minorities. Once public and political hostility toward certain groups who are "different, not like us" begins, there is a risk it will spread to other nonconforming groups, of which we are a prime example in the minds of certain right wing groups.

Third, on a national level our communities were just beginning the difficult task of building credibility and working relationships with a new administration whose social policy inclinations are very different

from that of the Clinton administration. That uphill battle will be even more difficult now, both because it will be more difficult to get policymakers to focus on our issues and because, as noted above, our effect of this tragedy may be to bring out some of the more unfortunate conservative attitudes – "toughness," emphasis on "traditional American values" – in a way hostile to alternative lifestyles. We believe our messages will need to be modified to address this new "hostile climate."

Finally, the tangible economic effects of the tragedy will have particularly adverse consequences for our communities in a number of ways:

- We depend on events to a substantial extent as a means of generating both funding and participation. With everyone more nervous about travel and less able to afford trips, the big events are likely to suffer and smaller events may even be canceled.

- Contributions are the life blood of our activism. The economic slowdown threatens deep declines in personal contributions that could greatly reduce our efforts and might even force some organizations to shut down entirely.

- And it must always be remembered that our communities have an economic aspect that essentially consists of many small businesses: GLBT-oriented bookstores, fetish clothing stores and small mail-order operations, alternative theater groups, bars and night clubs, etc. These small businesses are uniquely vulnerable to the combined effects of our economic downturn and increased scrutiny by community members at public scrutiny of their lifestyles.

For all of these reasons, now is the time for recommitment to our goals and ideals, for resistance to the natural tendency to recede from activism and from public activities and instead to "tend one's own garden," as Voltaire put it. We at NCSF, along with other GLBT and freedom of expression groups, must increase our outreach activities and our efforts to maximize and broaden the involvement of individuals, especially at the local level.

More fundamentally, I urge all of us to rededicate ourselves to participation in the daily life activities that are the core of our communities' growing strength. Attend GLBT, SM-leather-fetish and other alternative sexual expression and freedom of expression events, both locally and regionally.

Support relief efforts that focus on our communities – the New York City Anti-Violence Project is a good example. Patronize the small business – merchants, theatres, galleries – that help our lifestyles thrive. Above all, do not retreat into isolation and inactivity. We have made great strides in recent years. Our momentum, acceptance, economic strength, and political effectiveness have grown exponentially. Now is the time for all of us to vow that we will not allow that progress to be reversed, that instead we will redouble our efforts to achieve the further gains that we all know are both essential and possible. ▼

Judy A. Guerin is the executive director of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom Inc. For more information, visit www.ncsfreedom.org.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Wanted to give blood, but couldn't

On Wednesday, September 12, I visited the Blood Centers of the Pacific donation center on Masonic Street here in San Francisco. I had intended to donate blood during this national crisis. I was given a form to fill out. Number eight on the form read, "You are a man who has had sex with another man one or more times since 1977." I was taken aback at such a long time frame. I read the rest of the form to see if it involved any other sex or combination of sexes. There was nothing that asked anyone else this question.

Twenty-four years seems like an unnatural stretch of time. I am a gay male, I have been in a committed five-year relationship with my partner, and I am HIV-negative. I feel that I am entitled to do all the other things in life that everyone else can do.

This virus has been around for many years. Why has the law been confined to "gay males?" It seems like a very prejudiced way of handling a situation.

As a gay, male, American citizen, I sincerely would like to donate my blood at this time of crisis.

George Lawrence
San Francisco

A bouquet of flowers?

This is in response to Lee Heller's letter in the September 27 issue. Heller needs to take off the Disc-man head set and look at the real world to see what has happened. Most certainly not seeing these tragic events through a song. I certainly do not advocate blindly invading Afghanistan or killing innocent civilians. But the perpetrators surely must be punished. What does Heller suggest, we should give bin Laden a bouquet of flowers?

Randall Cain
San Francisco

Mailstrom

Opposes discrimination, but...

I was thoroughly shocked by Katie Szymanski's front-page analysis of the recent national tragedy ["After the terror, a rush to thwart anti-Arab backlash," September 20]. Perhaps Ms. Szymanski's "progressive" ideology is more important to her than compassion for the wretched and doomed souls trapped on the top of the World Trade Center's twin towers, some so overcome by the intensity of the heat that they had stripped their clothes and desperately hung out of the windows waving their shirts, hoping for help that would not come. Rather than burn to death, many plunged to their death, one couple holding hands as they fell. I will never forget the horror and pathos of this scene, yet Ms. Szymanski evidently feels that I am racist and bloodthirsty for desiring that justice be brought to the evil and hate-filled fanatics who perpetrated this blow to humanity.

I wonder how many GLBT individuals perished in the holocaust of September 11. How many lovers, parents, and children are left behind, many of whom will never fully recover. I absolutely oppose any discrimination toward those of Arabic descent and desire no innocent citizens of Afghanistan be harmed, but this atrocity cries to the heavens for justice. I consider myself a "gentle and loving" person, who has "fought for his life" with HIV for 16 years. I am by no means a jingoist ultranationalist. I do, however, feel as though I have been in a sense transformed by September 11. To me it is a choice of siding with humanity and civilization, or with murderous zealots, who would incidentally like nothing better than to see all gay people go up in flames.

Christopher Koppel
Washington, D.C.

America didn't 'deserve it'

After painfully watching the disgraceful hijacking of Mark Bingham's memorial by former Supervisor Amos Brown and then reading the article by Katie Szymanski ["After the terror, a rush to thwart anti-Arab backlash," September 20], I tried to understand this hideous idea that somehow "America deserved it."

Is there some master list of body counts that justifies the consistent America bashing? Okay let's see, for America: WTC +7,000, Beirut +300, Pearl Harbor +2,500, WWI, WWII. Against America: Hiroshima -45,000, Salem Witch trials -200. How far back do we go? How do you decide where to allocate the numbers? Do the Inquisition and the Holocaust count for or against America?

Although not perfect by any means, America comes out smelling like a rose compared to any other nation ever in history. That is the key to American patriotism that Brown and Szymanski don't get. Their distortions are sad, almost desperate. Their use of the words bloodshed, hateful, anger, revenge, scapegoat, white centrist, bigotry, etc. in referring to America were just over the top. I have seen nothing but extraordinary outpourings of self sacrifice, love, and concern. In what country were Brown and Szymanski living in on September 11?

This obsession with Arab backlash is "crocodile tears." Last month Arabs were being demonized for their treatment of women, their U.N. veto of the rights of children, women, gays, etc. This is a convenient ruse to create new victims, shift focus, and assign guilt to America. The reality is that every entity in

America has already condemned this backlash. America is practically united on this point. The persistent highlighting of a few almost anecdotal but ugly incidents is out of proportion to the Herculean effort being mounted to deal with it. It is a political perversion of statistical (in)significance, a distortion of the true America, and right out of a Stalinist plan to divide us. It even undermines hate crime legislation by exposing it as just political spin.

Interestingly, the majority of people murdered in the WTC bombing were not white males. They were the very civilian, working class people of color and gender that Brown and Szymanski purport to care about. Should not the survivors of these real victims be polled before presumptuously speaking for them?

Reference has always been made to the mistake that was the American internment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor. Apologies and reparations have been made, but when does the assignment of guilt and penance stop? The vast majority of Americans are acutely aware of that episode, are not xenophobic, perfectly capable of making these distinctions between terrorist, citizen, neighbor, alien, etc.

It must be made clear to America that Brown and Szymanski do not represent anyone but themselves, certainly not our community. Kudos to Representative Nancy Pelosi who publicly disowned the comments of Amos Brown.

This constant drone of American guilt is wearing thin. Sometimes there is real evil. Sometimes patriotism and solidarity are required to defeat it. I am busting with pride for Mark Bingham and Father Mychal Judge, OFM, whom I knew well 35 years ago. Global recognition of their valor and patriotism has given our community incredible positive visibility.

I was also proud to see the number of patriotic letters to the editor in the September 20 B.A.R. Our community should be flying the American flag at the Harvey Milk Plaza (and if you remember Harvey, he would too). It is this incredible positive energy, recognition, respect, and unity that Brown and Szymanski fear the most, since it would destroy their best control tool - the negative political exploitation of our community as "victims."

The quoting of Mahatma Gandhi by the one letter to the editor in the B.A.R. was predictable but passé. It brings to mind some of my pacifist friends who while driving their Volvos and bashing America, idealistically push bumper stickers like: "Free Tibet." Would one assume that this slogan implies that America should be liberating Tibet from China with military force? Why would that be okay, but stopping global terrorism is not?

Gene Dermody
San Francisco

[Katie Szymanski responds: As a native New Yorker who was in Manhattan on September 11 and whose close family member narrowly escaped the WTC, I think I can understand the devastation, thanks. But as clearly stated in the article, a rational person should be able to grieve the loss of innocent life and decry terrorism without being racist. The above letters prove the article's point exactly: that any discussion of the incident beyond mere flag-waving will be met by crazed reactions that have nothing to do with what was actually said.]

[The editor responds: While we, too, have seen an outpouring of support since the recent attacks, there is an ugly side. Far from being "crocodile tears," incidents against those who look Middle Eastern are increasing almost daily, even Hispanics and African Americans have been mistakenly targeted. Political leaders from President Bush on down have repeatedly urged Americans to show tolerance for others, particularly those of Middle Eastern background. As for remembering the horror of internment camps during World War II, a poll last week from the Siena College Research Institute showed that one-third of New Yorkers favored establishing internment camps for "individuals who authorities identify as being sympathetic to terrorist causes." While 50 percent of the 610 New Yorkers surveyed opposed such a move, the news that one-third supports such camps was startling.]

Don't trade freedom

If he gets his way, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft will cry theatrically at Miss Freedom's funeral, when he explains that, "In order to save her, we had to destroy her."

The railroad tracks of his Big Brother Express are being greased by wimps who think "we have no choice but to leave the decisions of the nation's future - how to respond to the terrorist attacks and how to protect the country against future attacks - to George W. Bush...." [Our Man Friday, B.A.R., September 27]. And thereby to the pseudo-president's handlers.

Luckily, in Congress, some brave legislators are refusing (so far) to trade freedom for an alias-icon thereof. Liberal Congresswoman Maxine Waters agrees with right-wing Congressman Bob Barr, who asked Justice Department officials whether the executive branch is trying "to take advantage of what is obviously an emergency situation, to obtain authorities that it has

next page ►

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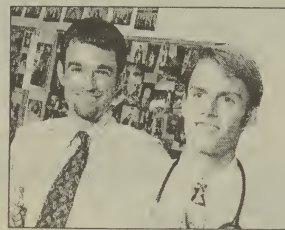
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been unable to obtain previously?" (usatoday.com, September 26). Senators Ted Kennedy and Arlen Specter are teaming up to save our Bill of Rights.

To help, freedom-seekers should visit the American Civil Liberties Union (aclu.org) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org).

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco.

Lacking details

What is the source of the four vignettes that open "Rough ride" (September 27)? You give no names, no places, no dates, no attribution. Did these incidents actually occur? Did your reporter observe them? Why does she call them "scenarios," as if they were fictional or merely hypothetical?

Who did observe these events, if events they were? You say the first-name-only source cited later in the story "refused to enter the airport to pick up his friends." You never say if he is the source of those stories. If he is, then your reporter says he says his friends say. A third-hand report passed off as first-hand?

And the "scenarios" describe an airport check-in, not an arrival. Did the four incidents all occur at the same airport at the same time? Which airport? When? Surely you could provide some details without compromising your source or sources.

Are these "scenarios" then actual events? Mere rumors? Urban legends? Or projected fears?

I do not doubt for a moment that the step-up in airport security poses special difficulties for trans persons. The latter part of your article does a creditable journalistic job of factually establishing a basis for fears.

But it serves no one to publish unattributed, unsubstantiated, undetailed, unconfirmable stories as front-page reporting. It does not help the community in general or the credibility of the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Randy Alfred
San Francisco

[Katie Szymanski responds: The episodes - I should not have used the word 'scenarios' - at the beginning of the article were in fact observed and experienced by myself, or as noted, by the one other person involved who agreed to be interviewed. Other travel details - which airport and flight, for instance, were purposely left out to protect the identities of the transgender passengers.]

Watch the witches

Common sense (and decency) suggests that when you, along with others, are slandered, your response should not further slander some of those slandered with you. Yet that is precisely what happened in the B.A.R. cartoon of September 20, depicting Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson as witches stirring up a cauldron with the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

Falwell's original slander blamed the ACLU, abortionists, pagans, and feminists, along with gays for causing the attack on the World Trade Center, or allowing it to happen, by angering his god. Feminist spirituality, paganism (more correctly neo-paganism) and witchcraft are related and overlapping spiritual movements in the contemporary world, with a fairly large following among LGBT populations. Although the total number directly involved in these inter-related spiritual movements is somewhat small, minority status is no excuse for trivializing.

This is particularly troubling as there is no shortage of appropriate images of authoritarian Christianity: the Inquisition, the Crusades, forced conversions, desecration of non-Christian religious shrines, and, of course, the witch burnings themselves. While the Christian tradition has produced Martin Luther King, St. Francis of Assisi, A.J. Muste, and Dorothea Day, along with a host of social gospel activists, it has also produced Torquemada, Cromwell, the WCTU, and the Southern Baptists. Falwell and Robertson fit in, perfectly, with this dismal history. It is particularly important at this time to stress the similarities between a Christian holy war (a crusade) with an Islamic one (Jihad) as a way to combat anti-Arab and anti-Muslim prejudice (they are not synonymous).

Sean McShee
San Francisco

Stop the terrorism

To stop the flow of money to bin Laden's organizations is a matter of national security. How did someone get enough money together to pay for the attacks on September 11? Throughout Saudi Arabia, bin Laden has many "charities" to which wealthy Saudi businessmen contribute millions of dollars. Where is this money coming from? Oil. OPEC, of which Saudi Arabia is the primary organizer, is our main source of oil. Every time you turn on a light switch, cook a meal, pave an asphalt road, and run your car, you are putting money into bin Laden's pocket. What can we do? Stop buying oil from nations like Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has not spent the money on her people or land.

Our money is not being spent on helping a country thrive; it's being spent on threatening our lives.

Who can we call on to change this? Contact your representatives, senators, and local officials. We shouldn't have to pay to be terrorized, yet that is exactly what is going on. (To read the full essay with supporting references, go to <http://home.earthlink.net/~firerock/>)

E.A. Jensen
Santa Monica, California

Hate strikes home and our hearts

On Tuesday, September 11, an unwanted visitor came into our homes and our hearts. On that terrible morning, we witnessed the horrors wrought by hate.

People harboring such intense hatred of American policies, American political leaders, American military, and ultimately innocent American civilians, felt justified and vilified to destroy the lives of thousands of individuals-people they had never seen, never had a chance to know, understand, or appreciate.

"Hate is not a family value" is a favorite slogan within our friendly and loving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. It is an appropriate slogan because we know the strength of hate and the power of a people that can overcome it. We know that once our families, our friends, our coworkers, and our neighbors get to know us, the hate they may harbor against us as an unknown enemy begins to melt away. Eventually they may learn to like us, accept us, and even love us for who we are.

We also know the strategy of hate-mongers who use fear of the unknown and the different for their own purposes. Just two days after the World Trade Center attack, the Reverend Jerry Falwell took to the airwaves to capitalize on the fear many Americans were feeling. He knew that in those immediate hours following our greatest national tragedy, everyday citizens were at their most vulnerable. Everyone was looking for answers, for solace, for someone to blame. Falwell sought to soothe America's wounded heart by offering up someone to blame, somewhere for his followers to direct their anger, their hatred.

On *The 700 Club*, on September 13, Falwell wasted no time in steering the anger and brewing hatred of his audience. "I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'" Falwell said on the program, which was broadcast nationally.

The perpetrators of the vicious and heinous attacks on New York and Washington acted out of a deep-seated hatred for who we are as Americans. That hatred did not simply materialize. It was learned over time from revered leaders and people they respect as having insight into the desires and intent of God. Our president has directed that we must not only punish the actual terrorists, but the people who harbor them. We can see and support the logic in that. To eradicate violence and terrorism from our lives, we must address not only those who act out of hate, but also those who preach it, teach it, condone it or reward it.

Not all of us will have the opportunity to stand up directly to the hate-mongers responsible for the violent assaults against our nation on September 11. But each of us has an opportunity to confront the seeds of hate everyday in this country. We must speak out against those that preach any form of discrimination or oppression. Not to do so allows the seeds of hate to flourish, and we have seen all too well with our own eyes, the culmination of hate gone unchallenged.

David Frishkorn
Norwalk, Connecticut

Support renewable power

There has been much debate about the San Francisco energy supply this year. We have been told that we are suffering an "energy crisis," reflected in the extortionate energy bills that the San Francisco residents are having to foot.

It seems to me that depending almost exclusively on fossil fuels for our energy supply will only lead us to more "crises" and larger bills. This is not to mention the huge contribution we are making to global warming through carbon dioxide emissions from burning oil, coal, and natural gas.

An obvious solution would be to phase out dependence on dirty fossil fuels and get our energy from renewable sources. We already have developed economically competitive wind power technology and the solar power potential of California is immense.

This November, San Francisco residents will have the opportunity to kick-start the switch to renewable power. By voting for Propositions B and H on the November 6 ballot, we can make San Francisco a leader in renewable power.

I urge everyone to support these measures, go solar and stop our unnecessary dependence on outdated, dirty fossil fuels.

Amanda Roll-Pickering
Greenpeace Solar Yes! campaign
San Francisco

POLITICS

Pelosi about to make Capitol Hill history

by Wayne Friday

House Democratic Minority Whip Representative **David Bonior** (D-Michigan) announced last month that he would give up his powerful House leadership post in January so that he can run for governor of his home state and the current 215-member Democratic caucus will meet next Wednesday on Capitol Hill to choose a new No. 2 leader.

The contest to become the next House minority whip – a post that has formerly been held by such political notables as Vice President **Dick Cheney**, Senate Minority Leader **Trent Lott** (R-Mississippi), and former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** has come down to two Democratic contenders – Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** of San Francisco and Representative **Steny H. Hoyer** of Maryland. If, as many are predicting, Pelosi is elected House minority whip next week, she would become the first woman of either major party to rise to Capitol Hill's top leadership ranks. She would also become the first House member in such a leadership position from California since former House Majority Whip **Tony Coelho** (D-Merced) resigned in 1989.

Aides to Pelosi told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that, based on commitments of support for her, the popular Californian has the secret ballot race locked up. The Hoyer camp, however, and aides to some Democrats who have not

yet publicly declared allegiance say the contest for the powerful leadership position is still neck-and-neck. A simple majority of the 215-member Democratic caucus, or 108 votes, is required to win, and a top Pelosi person told me this week that "Nancy has commitments from 120 members; I'm confident she'll win it."

At press time, Hoyer claimed to have 101 "sure" committed supporters. In addition to the current 210 Democrats in the House, four non-voting House delegates (representing American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands) and the resident commissioner from Puerto Rico – all Democrats – are eligible to vote.

Pelosi, 61, a 14-year House veteran, is a top party fundraiser and a senior member of the House appropriations panel. A liberal Democrat, Pelosi is a longtime champion of gay and lesbian rights and has long enjoyed the political support of the community. Hoyer, 62, a 20-year House veteran, also is a senior member of the appropriations panel and a longtime party insider.

All the best of luck Congresswoman Pelosi, you've earned this honor.

Politics and people

The above-mentioned Nancy Pelosi joins Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell**, former Supe **Sue Bierman**, **Anne Kronenberg**, **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin**, Treasurer **Susan Leal**, Dr. **Sandra Hernandez**, **Mary Dunlap**, the Reverend



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, left, joined Supervisor Mark Leno at his Assembly campaign kickoff in June.

Penny Nixon and hundreds of other women giving a reception tonight (October 4) from 6-8 p.m. ("Women Supporting Mark for Assembly 2002") at Delancey Street, 600 Embarcadero, for Supervisor **Mark Leno's** 13th District Assembly race (\$100 or donation of your choice suggested; 290-7128 for info).

Incidentally, because I've received a number of

calls on this, let me state – clearly – that if I were a candidate for public office in this city with **Dianne Feinstein's** endorsement, I'd use it to the hilt, too. Attorney **Jim Lazarus**, a former Feinstein aide now running for city attorney in the upcoming November 6 election, is airing TV ads featuring the popular senator and has her name on his signs and campaign literature almost as big and bold as his own. The practice is done all the time; it's politics, and besides, in this city, Feinstein's name is political gold. Then-president of the Board of Supervisors, Feinstein had everything to do with pulling together this shaken, angry city in the days immediately following the murders of Mayor **George Moscone** and Supervisor **Harvey Milk** in 1978. Feinstein was brilliant; she helped heal this city. Feinstein later successfully used television clips heralding her leadership in campaigns; she had every right to do so, and in fact, deserved to do so. However, for Lazarus, one of dozens of little-known deputy city attorneys at the time, to now be claiming in his campaign that "When George Moscone and Harvey Milk were killed, I was the deputy city attorney who kept the government running" is, I'm sure many would agree, one hell of a stretch. Again, Feinstein did a magnificent job keeping the city government running back in 1978, and the campaign ads she used taking credit for it much later were certainly justified, but Mr. Lazarus? Give us a break, sir.

Incidentally, **Steve Williams**,

another candidate for city attorney, and the one endorsed by the "Harvey Milk Democratic Club," continues to avoid listing the fact that the club is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered club on his campaign literature (thought the club had a rule about that, but then maybe that rule went out with the one that once said only Democrats could be members).

In addition to Lazarus and Williams, the other candidates for city attorney are **Dennis Herrera**, endorsed by the S.F. Police Officers Association, the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff's Association, and outgoing City Attorney **Louise Renne**; and attorney **Neil Eisenberg**, endorsed by former Supe **Angela Alioto**.

One effect of the horrible terrorist attacks three weeks ago in New York and Washington has been a virtual halt among the leadership of the major political parties toward fundraising for next year's general elections. For the time being, all four party committees have declared a temporary moratorium on fundraising activities, but that will likely end soon as it is now less than 14 months before the critical November 2002 mid-term elections that will determine control of both the House and Senate.

Meanwhile, Vice President **Dick Cheney** is back. It can now be told with certainty that during the tense hours after the September 11 attacks, while President **George W. Bush** was being shuttled around the country aboard Air Force One for security reasons as a few suspect aircraft remained unaccounted for, it was Cheney at the White House calling most of the shots, telling congressional leaders to board helicopters and evacuate the Capitol. While Cheney kept in touch with congressional leaders throughout the day, most of them did not hear from Bush until the following day. Although Cheney was seldom seen or heard from for a few days – he had been taken to Camp David – and while other top operatives like **Colin Powell** and Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld** were giving vague, cautious answers to the

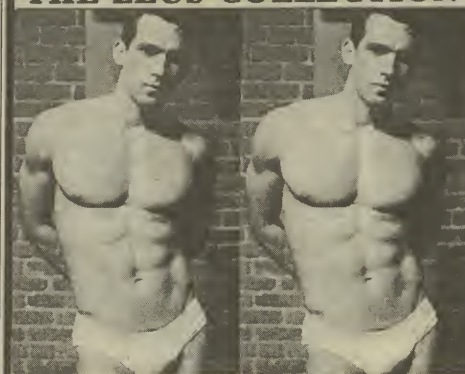
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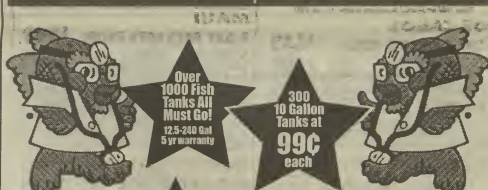
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www.marineland.com

2pm Tetra: www.tetra-fish.com

3pm J.B.J. Lighting: www.jbjlighting.com

4pm Kent Marine: www.kentmarine.com

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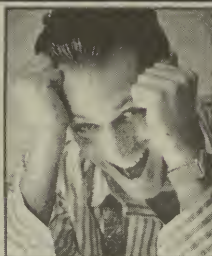
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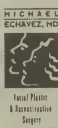
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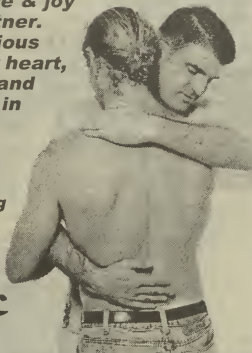
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I want my trans TV

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

CBS took me by surprise: they've put a transgendered character in their fall lineup. It's actually been a big year for transgendered representations in the media. Films from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* to *Southern Comfort* have hit the theaters. Transgender plot lines have made their way into programs like *Judging Amy* and *Gideon's Crossing*. Even MSNBC has jumped on the bandwagon, following a transsexual woman through her surgery as part of its *MSNBC Investigates* series.

Not all has been positive, of course. Summer films were rife with tranny gags, from the Lucille Ball impersonator in *Rat Race*, to "Sadie had more than a mustache" in the short-lived movie *American Outlaws*.

Given all of this, it should not have surprised me to see a regular character on television, but CBS's decision to air *The Education of Max Bickford* still caught me off guard. Given that gay and lesbian characters are still rare on network programming — with few notable exceptions — the idea of an out transgendered character seems like a big step forward.

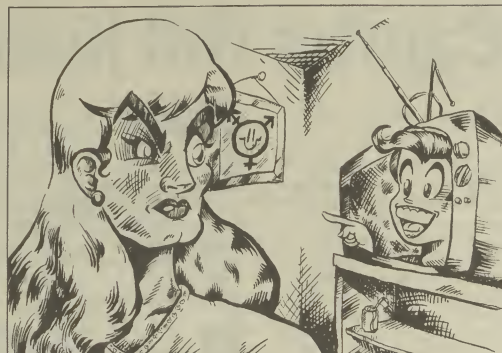
It's even bigger when one thinks of the representations that have come before. Recurring characters are hard to find, except perhaps for Jodie Dallas on *Soap*, or Steve "Stephanie" Carey on the *Drew Carey Show*. I suppose one could be generous and mention Buffy and Hildegarde of *Bosom Buddies*, though I am hard-pressed to include them on such a list.

At best, one finds single-episode examples, where the main character fancies a pretty woman, or meets up with an old school chum, and has that "gotcha" moment where they find out the person is transgendered.

Gender confusion is funny, after all.

Of course, the biggest venue for transgender-themed programming — and plenty of those "gotchas" — has been talk shows. I've railed about those programs before in this column, so I'll spare you this time. If one is looking for a true-to-life representation, or even a sympathetic story, you are not going to find it coming from Jerry, Maury, or their ilk.

Some conventions die hard: The first episode of *The Education of Max Bickford* had plenty of "gotchas." Max meeting up with Erica for the first time after transition was one, and a later scene



Christine Smith

where two other characters, discuss "Steve" showering with "the women" rounded out the more true-to-TV-form parts of the story.

I would love to report that I love the show, but I can't: it does have its flaws. Never mind the fact that I am not a fan of the genre, and found Dreyfus's character more grating than lovable.

For one, it is rare that you actually hear Erica's name in the show. You here Steve so many times that one

almost forgets that the character is named Erica. While this is pretty typical of what does happen in real life, there is no counterpoint presented: no one is defending Erica as Erica.

I also found the character a little unconvincing. It's not that Helen Shaver doesn't do a fine job of playing the part. It's simply that I am hard-pressed to believe her as a transgendered woman. It may sound odd, but she is too poised, too confident.

Coming from my own experience, a transgendered person who only entered transition 15 months before isn't likely to be quite as well-adjusted as Erica. There still will be moments of self-doubt, moments where emotions run high, and times where she may not feel that, as she put it, "everyone has been so nice." If only there were some transgendered actors out there for the part.

I also note that Erica Bettis is a "safe" transsexual woman, and I'd like to see something a little more challenging. We've seen other male-to-females on television — why not a female-to-male transsexual, for once?

Still, much of this may be the quibbles of a transgendered person who is going to see things in the program that will escape the eyes of other viewers.

It's also not as bad as I paint it, and this is where CBS and the

show really surprised me. Erica Bettis may not only be the first openly transgendered character to be a regular on a show, but she also has two distinct differences versus what we've seen on television before.

First off, she is not the butt of the joke. It's not an "It's Pat"-style "look at the freak" sort of representation, no matter how some of the characters seem to be facing Erica's transition. She is not being played as comic relief, and I am definitely thankful for that. Helen Shaver acting out Erica is a far cry from Billy Crystal or Tom Hanks in a dress.

As a regular, she is also not facing the "very special episode" syndrome that transgendered characters have gone through on *ER*, *Ally McBeal*, and others. She is not there for your pity, nor are you supposed to sympathize with her because of the hardships she has had to face.

There is one other thing I haven't hit upon. While I might find a handful of flaws in the character, I cannot deny feeling a certain sense of pride that a transgendered character is beamed into the home on a weekly basis. It provides a great chance to educate others about transgendered people. I also cannot help but think about those who are transgendered, and who may actually get a chance to see a potential — albeit fictional — role model on their television.

That alone makes it a show I will champion, and makes me hope that Erica doesn't go the way of the gay cook/houseboy on *The Golden Girls*, or that *The Education of Max Bickford* doesn't face a quick cancellation.

After all, I like surprises. ▽

Gwen Smith is still waiting for a openly transgendered *Star Trek* captain. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com/s "Transgender Gazebo."

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

media and on network programs the weekend following the attacks, it was Cheney, appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press* who gave a clear, blunt assessment of what lay ahead for the country. Cheney: "It is a mean, nasty, dangerous, dirty business out there, and we have to operate in that arena." He suggested that our government will likely have to possibly even pay unsavory characters for intelligence but that is the cost of fighting this war.

Voters in Santa Cruz's 27th Assembly District will have a chance in March of electing a superb can-

didate in the person of openly gay John Laird, a Democrat. Laird, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, needs help (he can win this one, folks) and I'd like to suggest people send a political donation to: Laird for Assembly, 1214 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Meanwhile, I'm told an openly gay man, David Tseng, has joined former Supervisor Mabel Teng in running against Assessor Doris Ward in the March 2002 election; Ward gets my vote any day — they don't come any better.

And those who know gubernatorial politics aren't paying too much attention to that recent Field Poll that has former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan edging out Governor Gray Davis

next year. Riordan has to get past two very ambitious GOP opponents in the March primary — Secretary of State Bill Jones and millionaire financier William Simon. Simon, incidentally, reportedly already has the endorsement of a very popular Republican — NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who has promised that he would find time to make a California appearance on Simon's behalf before the March primary (hell, even Democrat Davis would take that endorsement).

As the Nebraska Supreme Court prepares to hear a case this week that could decide if gay couples have the right to adopt children, groups on both sides are

next page ▶

COMMENTARY

Lambda strikes out again

by Dale Carpenter

In a recent column, I criticized the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund for arguing in court that the Chicago public school system's same-sex-only health benefits program is *unconstitutional*. Now Lambda, in a response by senior attorney Pat Logue, has denied it argued any such thing. Lambda's response misrepresents the dangerous arguments the group made. Perhaps worse, Lambda also discounts the special advantages of marriage as an institution, undermining the case for gay marriage itself. Since Lambda is the most important gay legal organization in the country, it is critical the group reconsider its direction on the issues of same-sex benefits and marriage.

Here's some background. Two years ago, the Chicago public schools offered health benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of its employees. The program did not include unmarried opposite-sex partners. Milagros Irizarry, a heterosexual employee, charged the policy discriminated against her and the boyfriend she'd chosen not to marry.

When a federal judge upheld Chicago's program, Lambda (which was not even part of the lawsuit) filed a special brief urging the appellate court to *reverse* that decision. Yet Lambda now denies it ever actually argued the Chicago policy is unconstitutional. At best, this denial is disingenuous.

The applicable constitutional principle is simple: When government policy treats one group of citizens differently from another, it must have at least a rational justification for doing so. Otherwise, the policy violates the requirement that everyone should get the "equal protection" of the laws.

Lambda argued the Chicago schools had failed to meet that constitutional mandate. I quote verbatim from page 14 of the Lambda brief: "Using the proper equal protection lens, it is apparent that the Board [of Education of the City of Chicago] has not justified its different treatment of employees like Irizarry."

The Lambda brief went on to criticize each reason given by the Chicago schools for excluding opposite-sex partners, including the fact that straight couples may get married and thus qualify for more extensive benefits than gay couples ever could. Even now Lambda insists the Chicago schools some-

how "discriminate" in favor of gay couples.

Lambda's brief suggested the schools' rationale for the program is a pretext for "animus or mere negative attitudes" against unmarried straight couples and "cannot provide a rational basis for the Board's actions and cast doubt on other justifications that may be offered" by the schools. Sounds like Lambda thinks the same-sex-only policy is unconstitutional.

I suppose Lambda could argue the Chicago schools should be made to think up more justifications for this gay-friendly policy in yet more litigation. But what explanation could possibly satisfy Lambda if the obvious one — that the overall package available to employees already favors straight couples — doesn't do the trick?

Lambda's brief then proposed a "remedy" — force the Chicago schools to include unmarried straight couples in the program — for a constitutional problem Lambda now claims did not necessarily exist. More on the effect of that remedy below.

There is additional dispiriting news in Lambda's response. Without support or logic, Lambda dismisses as "garbage research" the overwhelming evidence that married couples are, on average, happier and healthier than are single people or unmarried couples. There is room for debate about why this is so, but there is no serious debate that it is so.

Instead of disputing the comparative benefits of marriage, Lambda should cite those advantages as powerful reasons why denying marriage to gays is so cruel. After all, gays should have access to the same superior life prospects straight people have access to. But then to make this argument Lambda would have to accept the singular importance of marriage, which its post-modern ideology can't stomach.

If I and other gay critics have misunderstood Lambda's views, the group can end the confusion by answering this question: Does Lambda believe that a public employer's same-sex-only domestic partners' program is unconstitutional?

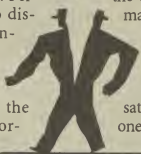
If the answer is "no," I apologize in advance and only ask the group to insist on more careful brief-writing by its attorneys in the future. An apology will also be due Lambda from the unanimous appellate judges who found it "surprising" a gay-rights group would oppose a gay-rights measure.

If the answer is "yes," I have

group will send a delegation to South Africa next month to lobby for that city to host the 2006 Gay Games, an Olympics-style event that draws gay and lesbian athletes from around the world. L.A. faces three other finalists — Chicago, Atlanta, and Montreal — in its bid to host the games. The Federation of Gay Games will begin the selection process in Johannesburg on October 21, with the winning city announced four days later.

And finally, in Sacramento, a sixth-grade teacher, Kory Clift, alleged to have set fire to a U.S. flag in his classroom, was also on probation at the time for a November 1998 altercation with a Sacto cop. The teacher has been placed on administrative leave for a September 18 classroom incident that he

page 18 ►



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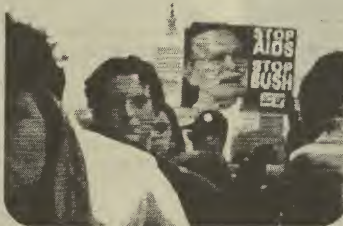


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Our Man Friday

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weighing in. The state high court will hear the case of a lesbian who wants her partner to be able to adopt her 3-year-old boy; the case has generated briefs from scores of organizations.

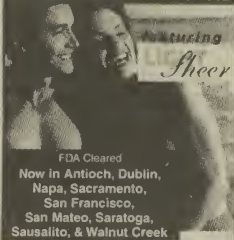
And in Santa Barbara, California, backers of a pro-Boy Scout initiative say they have more than the 12,500 signatures required to put it on the ballot in March. The initiative would declare the Boy Scouts a "worthwhile and wholesome organization." It's a response to a Board of Supervisors' resolution calling the Scouts' ban on gays "incompatible with county policy."

In Los Angeles, a nonprofit



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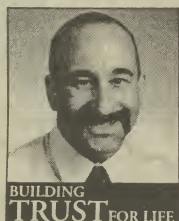
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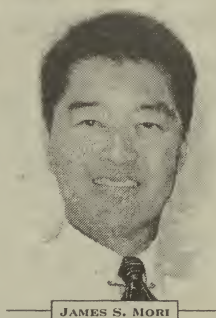
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Recognition for vital work



Tekhog, left, and Nina Grossman, were recognized for their work with HIV Prevention Project by the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center at the group's Monday, October 1 benefit. The project runs the needle exchange program in San Francisco, which is used by many of TARC's clients, said Lee Illion. The fundraiser drew about 300 people, who enjoyed entertainment from Leigh Crow (formerly Elvis Herselvis) and others.

Her-cules

by Jane Warner

3 660 20th Street, September 29, 7:50 p.m.: While walking, a woman heard someone behind her. A man suddenly grabbed the woman and pushed her face against the wall of a building, pinning his body against hers. The man shoved his other hand up her skirt and grabbed her buttocks, trying to reach under her underwear. The woman fought back, turning her upper torso, grabbing the suspect's hand, and knocking his shoulder bag to the ground. The woman punched him several times in the chest, causing the assailant to stumble back into the street light where she got a good look at him. Surprised, the suspect ran away, his baseball cap falling from his head. Realizing that he forgot his bag and cap, he started to turn, but the woman picked up the items and told him, "Mother-fucker, I've got your bag! You're not going to do this to me!" Described as a Latino male with a bowl-type haircut and bushy eyebrows, the suspect quickly walked away eastbound on 20th. The woman ran to a corner store and called 911. Responding officers searched the area for the suspect but were unable to find him. Discovered inside the suspect's bag, however, was his identification card.

Hate treads

Market and Duboce, September 30, 2:14 a.m.: A woman returned to her gray Honda Accord to find that it had been vandalized. The driver's side rear window was broken, and vandals left a cardboard sign with a threatening message invoking the name of Osama bin Laden. Suspects are unknown.

Blind date

14th and Landers, September 26, 9:47 p.m.: A man was walking eastbound on 14th Street when he noticed two men approaching him from the rear. As the suspects neared him, they whispered something to each other. The first suspect grabbed the man's neck and told the victim, "Give me your wallet. Give us your money." The second suspect then forced the victim to the ground. At this point the victim's glasses fell off his face.

While on the ground, the victim felt the suspects trying to find his wallet. Suddenly, an unknown person yelled at the suspects to get off the victim and that she was going to call the police. Both of the suspects walked south on Landers toward 15th. The victim suffered no serious injury or mone-

tary loss, but he was unable to get a good look at the suspects without his glasses. A neighbor, however, gave police a description.

Sandwich heroes

Chow Restaurant, 215 Church Street, September 26, 2:20 p.m.: Officers were called to Chow Restaurant regarding a theft from a customer. The victim was eating at a table when she noticed a woman sitting next to her. The woman did not order anything and left soon after, at which point the victim realized several items were missing from her purse which had been hanging on the back of her chair. Employees at Chow had an idea of who was responsible for the theft, and they followed her into the Safeway at Church and Market. The Chow employees mouthed to Safeway employees to call security, but the suspect heard the exchange and turned to flee. The Chow employees grabbed the suspect, who dropped her purse and jacket, and ran out the door. Inside the purse were the victim's wallet and Walkman, as well as the suspect's identification. The Chow employees returned to work and called the police. ▼



SJ Pride group creates grant program

by Matthew S. Bajko

After declaring bankruptcy several years ago and struggling to pay off past debts, the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration Committee has turned its finances around enough to implement a new grant program.

With at least \$5,000 earmarked for its Community Giving Program, the committee is looking to award grants to community-based organizations, service groups, and nonprofit corporations that have a clearly demonstrated need and use for the grants.

The grant amounts range from \$250 up to \$1,500. Groups have until December 31 to submit applications and will be notified in January or February of 2002 if their proposal was selected.

"Whether it goes to a small or-

ganization or a large one depends on how creative they are on the use and if the money has some impact. We don't want it to just go to a general operating fund or to just disappear," said Mark Hoffman, Pride committee treasurer. "We haven't written down any criteria yet. We are going to see what type of applications we get."

So far, two organizations have submitted grant proposals. At a time when the South Bay economy has suffered from the dot-com crash, Hoffman expects many smaller nonprofits will need the financial support from the program.

"People are giving so much money to the Red Cross and relief funds that money is trickling in to nonprofits. And a lot of corporations have cut their giving programs and directed their money elsewhere," he said. "Although the

grants may seem small to people, you have to start somewhere and do what little you can."

The committee announced this is the first time since the bankruptcy proceedings that it is able to give back to the community. While San Jose Pride saw profits from its last several celebrations, all the money had to be earmarked to pay off overdue accounts.

"This is the first year we actually made any money. We have been trying to reestablish ourselves ever since the organization went bankrupt five years ago," explained George Gonzales, who was recently renamed the committee's president.

He attributed the event's fiscal turnaround to the new board put in place as part of the bankruptcy settlement and the Pride festival's

page 20 ►

AIDS Ride may be on rocky ground

by Katie Szymanski

The glorious ride of charity events coordinator Dan Pallotta seems to be grinding to a temporary standstill in California. Pallotta Teamworks, the mastermind for-profit company behind nationwide popular fundraisers like AIDS bicycle trips and breast cancer walks, has long been controversial for giving a less than an ideal percentage of the money raised to benefiting organizations. But the company's reputation and practices may be leaving an increasingly sour taste in the mouths of those organizations, as two area nonprofits have confirmed that they are re-negotiating their involvement with Pallotta's California AIDS Ride.

"We are in the process of ongoing negotiations about the contract for the ride. There are more points of difference between us and Pallotta than there have been in the past," Gustavo Suárez, director of communications for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The divergent points of view, according to Suárez, include "cost containment, and cost of fundraising, among other issues."

While he could not comment on an exact dollar amount, Suárez confirmed that after the most recent AIDS Ride in June, Pallotta Teamworks presented invoices to SFAF that were "in excess of approved budget limits."

"What is important for donors and riders to know is that we have not paid — and will not pay — those invoices unless we are convinced those charges were necessary and justified."

There are mechanisms in the contract, he said, for settling monetary disputes.

Suárez said it is premature to speculate on Pallotta's future with SFAF.

"If negotiations don't work out then we'll look at other options," he said, "but it's much too early to say."

Also in discussions with Pallotta is the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, although Bonnie Osborn, spokeswoman for the center, said that these negotiations happen every year.

"As with any contract, the terms are negotiated annually," said Osborn, reluctant to hint at any controversy.

"What I do know is that the outstanding issues are financial liability, cost containment safeguards, and the share of monies raised that would go directly to HIV/AIDS services."

Whether the center would sever ties with Pallotta, according to Osborn, "depends on the outcome of negotiations. But that's true of any kind of contract."

Pallotta did not return calls from the *B.A.R.* seeking comment.

On average, Pallotta's company takes 40 cents of every dollar raised by his events, according to a recent article posted by the Web site Consumer Health Interactive. But he has been able to maintain many of his contracts, in part because few organizations that receive even a small fraction of the millions raised could ever raise that kind of money themselves. Pallotta events have been described as incredibly slick productions, complete with packaged messages of hope and spirituality that are responsible for enticing the donors who ride or walk each year. Regardless of how much money actually reaches the charities, Pallotta riders and walkers

tend to participate for the "experience."

Pallotta Teamworks owns the California AIDS Ride trademark and produces the AIDS Ride according to a beneficiary model, according to SFAF's Suárez. That means that while the event is Pallotta's, his services are contracted by the beneficiaries, who hire his company to produce the event on their behalf. Theoretically that means that Pallotta's California AIDS Ride could continue without its current beneficiaries if other organizations were to fill their spots. But because the current beneficiaries like SFAF own the rider and pledge lists, they too could conceivably produce their own successful event. ▼



Participants in this year's California AIDS Ride left Fort Mason in San Francisco for the trek to Los Angeles.

Rush is on this weekend for gay fraternity

by Cynthia Laird

Are you a gay or bisexual man who's tired of the bar scene? If so, you could find friendship with the Zeta Chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, the national social fraternity for gay, bisexual, and progressive men. The community-based chapter is holding its first rush open to men in the Bay Area beginning this Friday, October 5.

Marcus Seisay, chapter president, said that rush is open to all men at least 18 years old who live in the Bay Area. Rushes do not need to attend college to be eligible, they need only possess a desire to make new friends and support local organizations through community service projects.

Members of the group last month had a booth at the East Bay Pride festival in Oakland. They also handed out fliers at last weekend's Folsom Street Fair.

Organized by a small group of guys last October who worked to see the local chapter recognized by the national board of directors in May, the Zeta Chapter currently is comprised of men in and out of college and of various ethnic backgrounds including Indian, African American, and Latino. Fraternity members reside in San Francisco, Oakland, Hayward, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and San Jose.

Several activities are taking place this weekend as part of the Zeta Chapter's rush. Events include:

- A no-host gathering at Cafe Flore, 2298 Market Street, Friday, October 5 at 8 p.m.
- Participating at Gay Day at the San Francisco Zoo, Saturday, October 6 at 11 a.m. People should meet at the main zoo entrance. The zoo's regular admission fees are in effect.
- A no-host brunch at Bagdad Cafe, 2295 Market Street, Sunday,

October 7 at noon to coincide with the Castro Street Fair.

- A no-host event for those 21 and over at the Bar on Castro on Thursday, October 11 at 8 p.m.

The Delta Lambda Phi National Social Fraternity is organized as a nonprofit corporation under District of Columbia law. The corporation is organized for social and recreational purposes. The fraternity's mission is to enhance the quality of life among gay, bisexual, and progressive men by

providing dignified and purposeful social, service, and recreational activities. Organized after the model of other collegiate Greek societies, the group has a pledging process, a coat of arms, a fraternity pin, national convention, and a chapter program.

For more information about rush activities, call (415) 262-0288 or e-mail DLPZETASF@aol.com. To find out more about the national organization, visit www.dlp.org. ▼

New law promises instant HIV results

by Katie Szymanski

There's a basic stumbling block when it comes to HIV testing at publicly-funded sites around the country: by the time results are ready, which can take weeks, many of those tested have decided they are no longer ready to face the results. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of the 2.5 million people who get tested annually for HIV at public sites, 30 percent never return to learn their status.

With the rise in HIV transmission, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) authored and pushed through AB1263, signed by Governor Gray

Davis on September 23. The new law, to take effect in January, will allow implementation of rapid oral HIV testing by counselors at select sites while the test awaits full FDA approval. Rapid oral testing has already been determined to be accurate, according to the bill's backers, and can yield a result in five to 30 minutes.

At the very least, the new law should help to curb the HIV cases that arise from a person not knowing his or her status. Dr. Thomas Coates, director of the University of California at San Francisco's Center for AIDS Research, said the high "fall-off" rate between testing and getting results means that there is a significant population that just "can't face the

possibility of a bad result." But it is the waiting rather than the result that may cause the anxiety, said Coates, citing a study in Africa where same-day results increased voluntary counseling and testing requests from 1,167 in 1999 to 5,117 to 2000.

"Even the knowledge of a wait might be an obstacle," said Coates, who praised Migden's legislation as "removing a legal barrier so that counselors, rather than just lab technicians, are allowed to interpret testing results."

"HIV infection is once again on the rise," said a statement from Migden. "Rapid HIV testing will allow for more people to learn their HIV status and make important life decisions." ▼

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Capitol politics in the post-attack period

by Bob Roehr

One result of the September 11 terrorist attacks has been to paper over partisan divisions — at least temporarily — in the political terrain of Washington, D.C. That has both positive and negative effects on what advocates had hoped to accomplish during the remaining days of this session of Congress, on issues that affect the LGBT community.

A traditional priority at the end of session rush is to pass the appropriations bills to operate government agencies for the fiscal year that began on October 1.

"Previous to September 11, I think that we were all pessimistic about increases in funding for a number of domestic discretionary programs, including AIDS, breast and cervical cancer detection, and research programs," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Things are very different on every level in all of our lives since September 11."

"The starkly partisan political debates" over tapping the Social Security trust fund for deficit spending have virtually disappeared, said Bill Arnold, with the ADAP Working Group. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program pays for HIV drugs and is in need of additional money.

"We're benefiting somewhat from the 'let's not have any fights' atmosphere on Capitol Hill," said Arnold. "The politics of the moment is that if the economy tanks,

there won't be anybody working to provide the money," so spending to stimulate the economy is okay.

"It's no secret that the White House is advocating for more ADAP money," Arnold said, but it is still unclear what the final number will end up being. The Department of Health and Human Services has promised to release the money early and "that may prevent the Florida ADAP program from collapsing in November, and who knows what else," he added.

"I think that the proactive legislative agenda is very much on hold as we, as much of the rest of the country, grieve, and as we try to figure out what our next steps are," said Stachelberg. A Senate hearing on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, scheduled for October 2, was canceled.

Log Cabin spokesman Kevin Ivers was even more blunt. "What



HRC's Winnie Stachelberg

was defined as the gay agenda before September 11 has been shoved to the side" along with most other legislation, "and you are not hearing any screaming and

yelling from the gay groups about that. If you walk the gay neighborhoods, you see American flags everywhere, you realize that things have changed."

"Very real concerns have come to the forefront, things like partner and survivor benefits, and the Pentagon policy" on gays in the military, Ivers said, adding that gays and lesbians are looking for a way to support the effort against terrorism.

He pointed to public officials' statements of tolerance and non-discrimination, even though they were directed toward Muslims and Arab Americans, as having a spillover effect on creating a better atmosphere for the LGBT community. The fact that the FBI is investigating over 300 allegations of such discrimination perhaps lessens the need for further legislation in this area.

A Senate vote on hate crimes

legislation, once promised in the fall by Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), now seems unlikely this year. However, one can create a scenario where the measure may be attached to anti-terrorism legislation, with the acquiescence if not quite the support of the White House, to help allay fears of the erosion of civil liberties.

Stachelberg said HRC has taken on other responsibilities. One was to closely monitor the package of financial relief for the airline industry that was rushed through Congress. "We were concerned that a provision might be attached to exempt airlines from state and local laws" that the industry views as financial burdens. She mentioned local living wage laws and the San Francisco domestic partners benefits law that the industry has been fighting. But that did not happen. ▼

Conservative roadblock to D.C. domestic partner benefits removed in House

by Bob Roehr

Social conservatives in the U.S. House of Representatives lost their attempt to continue blocking a domestic partners registry in the city of Washington, D.C. The far right had framed the issue as a threat to

marriage, but a majority finally saw through that scam and defeated the anti-gay amendment 226 to 194, on September 25.

The appropriations bill for the District of Columbia has been a traditional vehicle for social conservatives in Congress in their cultural war on the LGBT community and others. It is a surrogate that

allows them to deal with matters such as family law that are not an area of federal jurisdiction and it allows them to impose on D.C. what they would not dare try to impose on their own constituents. This year was no different.

The District of Columbia passed a domestic partner law in 1992. Ever since then conservatives in Congress, under Democratic, Republican, and now split control of those chambers, have blocked use of local funds to implement the law.

"This was the one we said we were going to concentrate on this year," said Carl Schmid, a lobbyist who works with Republican D.C. City Council member David Catania. "We thought the mood had changed across America."

"Given what was happening in the world, in corporate America, and in other cities and states, we decided this was the year that we were going to try to fund these benefits," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. At least 113 other jurisdictions and more than



Representative Barney Frank

a third of the nation's largest companies have adopted domestic partner measures.

The broad coalition effort was successful in stripping out the anti-gay amendment in committee on a voice vote. But Representative Dave Weldon (R-Florida) reintroduced the amendment on

page <None> ►



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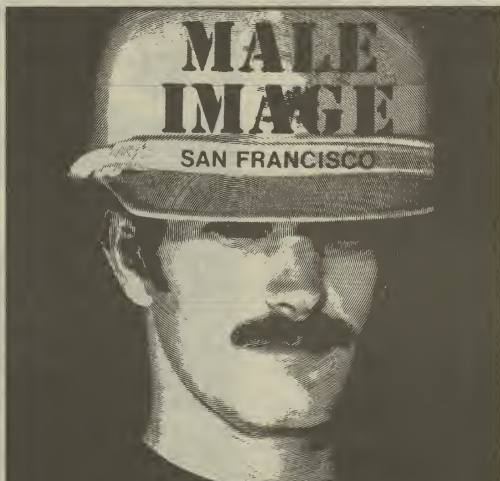
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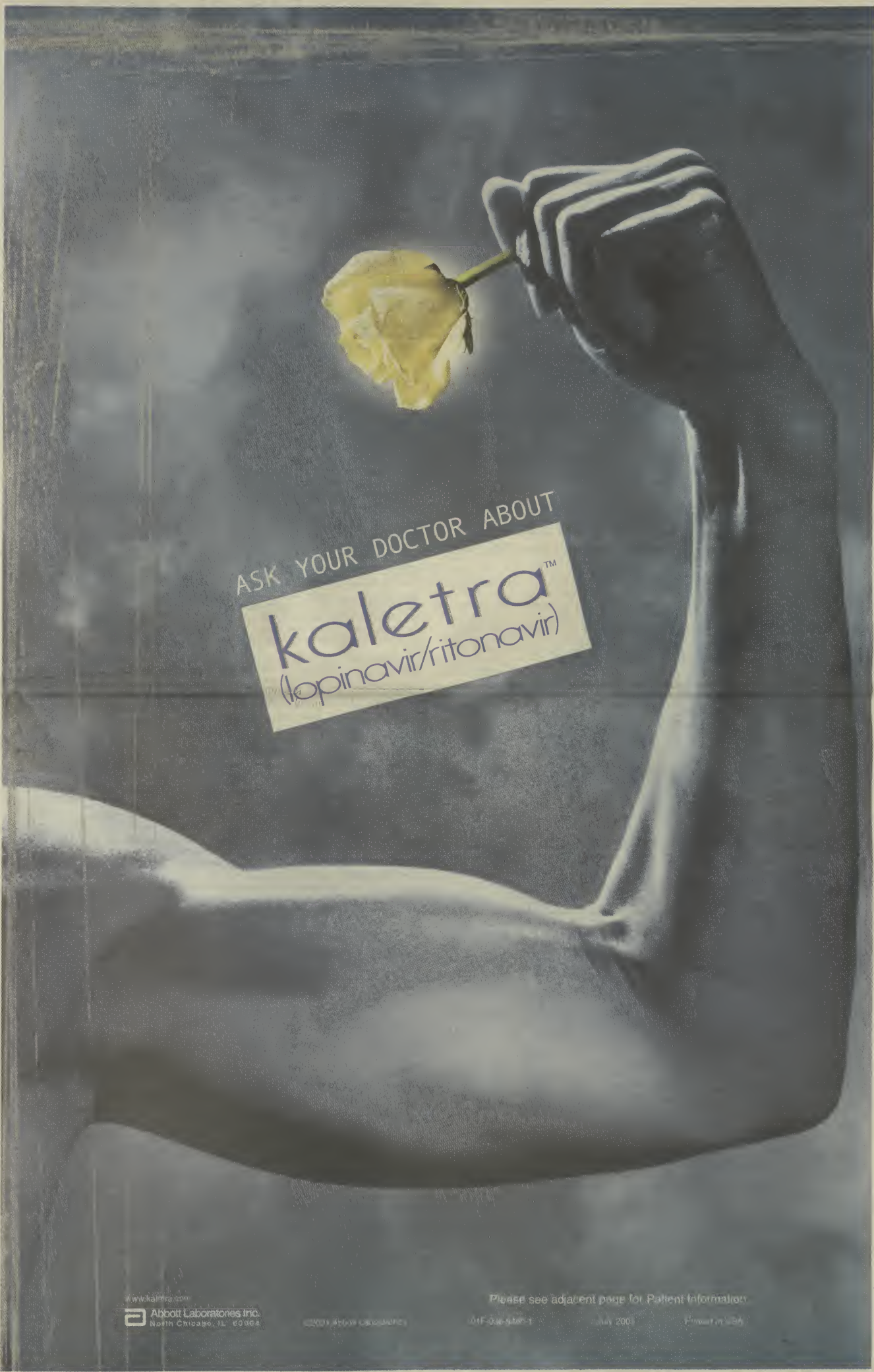
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
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Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA: Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylexergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Orap® (pimozide)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Rythmol® (propafenone)
- Seldane® (terfenadine)
- Tambocor™ (flecainide)
- Versee® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St.

John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Elavien® (Sustive™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking elavien® or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

- Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors; others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Ref.: 03-5113-R4

Revised: March, 2001

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Terrorist attacks spark immigration debate

by Mark Benjamin, UPI

The September 11 terrorist attacks have sparked discussion in Congress over how to better predict the risk visitors could pose to the United States, and how to track or apprehend potential abusers of the visa process.

Senator Kit Bond (R-Missouri) announced last week that he is drafting a bill designed to shore up apparent weaknesses in the visa process that allowed some of the terrorists suspected of carrying out the September 11 attacks to abuse the visa program to carry out their plans. That legislation will create a 30-day waiting period for the government to do background checks, create "tamper proof" visas, and establish a new Immigration and Naturalization Service office to hunt down violators who overstay their visa. It would also require the United States to construct a fully automated system to track entries into and exits from the country.

"Right now we have no ability to identify, locate, or remove foreigners who deliberately remain in this country long after their tourist or student visas expire," Bond said. "That is intolerable."

California Democrat Senator Dianne Feinstein is also drafting a separate bill to boost funding for the INS to track student visas and requires educational institutions to track the status of student visas. That bill would also delay all new student visas for six months while the INS gets the new program up to speed, according to Feinstein's spokesman Jim Hock.

Even before the bills are introduced, they are ringing alarm bells in the business community concerned about how decreased travel could further stall an already flagging economy. Domestic travel takes in over \$580 billion every year, according to the International Travel Association. In 1999 alone, nearly 50 million foreigners visited the United States and spent over \$74 billion once they were here, according to ITA.

"Yes, we need security, but we also need our economy up and running," said Theresa Brown, manager of labor and immigration policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "There is a lot of stuff being bandied about right now," Brown said about Congress. "We would just like to encourage people to exercise a modicum of caution."

In addition to the raw economic power of the travel indus-

try, the potential to stagnate cross-border trade and travel while the United States establishes an automated entry and exit system could suck vital funds from the economy of border towns and states.

"That daily flow of traffic is huge," Brown said. "It's very important to those local economies."

Some congressional players in the new immigration debate said the events of September 11 compel lawmakers to take a close look at the visa system, despite the economic risks.

"There is a cost to Senator Bond's proposal," said Bond's spokesman, Ernest Blazar. "But there is also a cost of not doing it."

The new proposals represent a radical departure from a heated debate in Congress that peaked with the September 5 visit to the United States by Mexican President Vicente Fox. At the time, Congress and the Bush administration were considering relatively aggressive plans to relax immigration policy, and eventually allow millions of illegal immigrants to possibly become citizens. But the focus of the immigration debate, like so many other things in Congress, has changed since September 11.

"The clock has been reset across the board," Blazar said. ▼

South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond hospitalized after collapse in Capitol

by Mark Benjamin, UPI

Senator Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina), was conscious and apparently alert as he was escorted from the Senate floor in a wheelchair the morning of Tuesday, October 2, after collapsing in the Senate chamber.

Thurmond waved to police officers from his wheelchair after being whisked off the Senate floor minutes after the incident took place. Senator Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), a heart surgeon, was in a nearby meeting and came to Thurmond's aid in seconds and opened Thurmond's shirt, witnesses said. One member of Frist's staff said their boss did not have to perform CPR, and that Thur-

mond had a "strong grip" before leaving the Senate.

Another Frist aide said Thurmond's pulse was "strong" just before leaving in the wheelchair, after suffering what the aide described as a "fainting spell."

Thurmond, 98, has had a series of ailments over the past year, including dehydration that has required limited hospitalization.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), immediately ordered the Senate chamber be cleared when Thurmond collapsed, and barred the press. Political observers have watched Thurmond's health closely, particularly in a Senate split among 50 Democrats, 49 Republicans and one independent. South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges, a Democrat, would ap-

point a replacement for Thurmond if he were forced to leave his seat for any reason. Thurmond has said he would not seek re-election in 2002.

Thurmond is considered one of the most conservative figures in American politics after first being elected to the South Carolina House as a Democrat in 1932. In June 1944, he parachuted into Normandy after receiving an exemption because he was over age. In 1957, Thurmond filibustered over 24 hours against a civil rights bill, and he became a Republican after switching parties in 1964 to support Barry Goldwater. In March 1996, at 93, Thurmond became the oldest person ever to serve in Congress and he is the longest-serving senator in U.S. history. ▼

Time is running out to register to vote

by Matthew S. Bajko

As patriotism runs high, time is running out to take part in the most democratic demonstration of all, voting. Residents only have until Monday, October 22 to register to vote for the November 6 election in San Francisco.

And if you have been recently laid off, you can earn some extra cash on Election Day. Workers are still needed to man the polling stations.

The October 22 deadline also applies to registered voters who want to re-register if they have changed their names, residential address, or political affiliation. Registered voters residing in the city and county of San Francisco

should be receiving a voter information pamphlet in the mail with details about the upcoming election.

This year, voters will go to the polls to elect a new city attorney, as current City Attorney Louise Renne is retiring. City Treasurer Susan Leal also faces re-election and voters will decide on the proposed San Francisco-Brisbane Municipal Utility District proposition, and bond measures.

Early voting will begin on Tuesday, October 9 and continue up to Election Day. The Department of Elections will be open for early voting weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on November 6 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The offices are located in the basement of City Hall.

Poll workers and inspectors can earn up to \$150, while clerks receive \$107 to work Election Day. All workers must be U.S. citizens, a resident of San Francisco, and at least 18 years old or a 16- to 17-year-old high school student in order to apply.

Organizations can also turn Election Day into a fundraising event by signing up volunteers to work. The Elections Department will pay each organization \$1,284 for every group of 12 workers.

Bilingual workers are also being sought. People who are fluent in Chinese, Spanish, or Russian are encouraged to apply.

Poll workers can sign up at the Election Department's office in the basement of City Hall, room 34 or by calling (415) 554-4395. ▼

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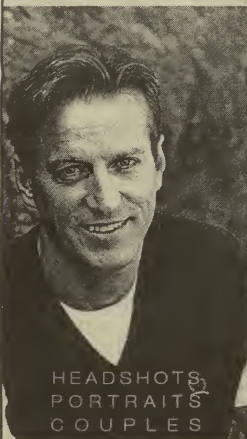
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Nonprofits struggle to hire fundraisers

by Matthew S. Bajko

Raising money is hard enough for nonprofit organizations. But lately, finding someone to lead those fundraising drives has proven an even more difficult task.

The search for a development director for the new LGBT Community Center is indicative of the problems many queer nonprofits have faced over the last year hiring for the position. For the center's board of directors, getting people interested in applying has not been an easy task.

After posting job announcements without any luck, the board hired a recruiting consultant to help them attract qualified candidates to the position. With only weeks to go before the center's grand opening, the board is hopeful it will hire someone this month to lead the center's fundraising efforts.

"We are having to look a lot harder at finding somebody than we thought we would have to," said Dana Van Gorder, board vice president. "A lot of queer organizations are looking for development directors, so there is a lot of competition for talent right now."

Among the groups hiring development directors this year have been Horizons Foundation, the Lavender Youth Recreation Information Center, and Dolores Street Community Services. Community United Against Violence is beginning a new fundraising campaign this fall in part to hire its own development director.

And just like the community center board is learning, these organizations know finding someone with experience isn't easy.

"We had no idea it would take this long," said Peter Teague, Horizon's executive director, whose organization was without a development director for six months. "We received a lot of applications from all over the country and a number from other countries. But the number of organizations seeking

development staff has been huge."

After an exhaustive search, Horizons hired Winston Dong, who began his new job Monday, October 1. And the organization has delayed the hiring of an annual fund and development specialist until the first quarter of 2002.

Competition between organizations for qualified people isn't the only complication in finding a development director. The economy's sudden nose-dive that started last year has only added to the hiring difficulty.

"Not a lot of people are interested in doing development work right now because the economy is not good right now," said Van Gorder.

Compounding the search for

has exponentially grown."

Until LYRIC hired Matt Fratus to fill the vacancy, the organization turned to using a development consultant. Using a consultant, however, presents several problems.

"They could be effective in grant writing or putting on a special event. But in terms of cultivating major donors, donors want to work with a full-time development director," said Cheu. "If you want to court someone and say 'We want you to donate to us,' then you want to send someone who shows they are 100 percent committed to your organization."

Mason Jeffrys is committed to seeing Dolores Street Community Services survive the downturn in the

"Even now, people with development skills are more skittish taking on those skills. The difficulty of their jobs has exponentially grown."

queer groups is trying to find someone not only good at raising money but who is knowledgeable about the LGBT community. In addition, a good development director needs to possess strong marketing skills, an amicable personality, and demonstrate they can raise money from an existing donor base.

"It is a pretty tall order to find all those things in one person. It is not easy," said Teague.

Before hiring a new development director this past January, LYRIC had been without that key person for nine months. Executive Director Brian Cheu described the hiring process as a "long and difficult search."

"Development is always a hard field to hire for, there are not a lot of people who want to raise money," he said. "Even now, people with development skills are more skittish taking on those skills. The difficulty of their jobs

economy. Leaving behind the corporate world in Chicago, he began work as the organization's development director two months ago.

With previous experience working for a nonprofit in Miami, Jeffrys said he is up for the challenge his new job presents. He said he is not deterred by the present economic climate.

"You just have to change your approach. People give for a lot of different reasons," he explained. "You have to figure out what those reasons are. I will try to figure that out over the next year."

As for explanations to the lack of quality fundraisers, those answers seem even harder to secure than dollars.

"There is a real scarcity in the development director field and I don't know the answer to why that is," said Cathy Nelson, development director for the Human Rights Campaign. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 11

said was a "revolutionary" teaching method but that others, including several angry students, characterized as flag burning. The Sacramento D.A.'s office is awaiting investigative reports on the classroom incident to determine if a crime was committed. Meanwhile, in the wake of the controversy, Cliff's status as a credentialed or

certified teacher is now in doubt.

Which brings me to this — while having a quiet drink with friends in a Castro bar on the Friday afternoon following the terrorist attacks in NYC and D.C., a friend of mine who had just purchased an American flag walked in. He proudly took the flag out of the bag, unfurled it to show it to us, and while doing so, an idiot (yes, a gay man) standing behind him at the bar suddenly took out his cigarette lighter and attempt-

ed to quietly set the flag on fire, before he suddenly thought otherwise. Laughing, the jerk put the lighter in his pocket, and because the popular bar was very crowded, only a couple of guys saw the incident — this idiot doesn't know how close he came to getting his sorry ass kicked by a couple of pretty hot, pissed off guys. Unbelievable that we have so many ignorant jackasses, even in our own great community.

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Fundraising

page 1

al staff members located in New York, the organization is just beginning to discuss rescheduling its canceled events.

"We haven't done any major mailings or attempted to contact New York donors. They need time to pull themselves together," said Leslie Minot, the group's development director.

After the attacks, the Human Rights Campaign held several events in Los Angeles and Minneapolis as scheduled. All sold out. HRC has altered plans for its national dinner in Washington, D.C. Friday night.

"We are changing the program of that event to really honor and pay tribute to those who have been lost," said Cathy Nelson, HRC's development director.

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation postponed its Malibu triathlon by two weeks from its original September 15 date and a Washington gala planned for November will now be held sometime next year.

San Francisco's Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center had picked September 11 for the date it would post its fall direct mail piece. It is still sitting at the printers.

"We still need to send it out, but we don't want it to arrive at a point where people cannot focus on our needs," explained Brian Cheu, LYRIC's executive director.

Other groups saw no choice but to continue as planned with their mailers.

"Our next fundraising appeal is just now dropping in the mail. While we were sensitive to not dropping it close to the tragedy, we felt the window of opportunity had opened for us," said Charlie Robbins, development director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Donor fatigue?

National fundraising drives for the Red Cross and the United Way's September 11 Fund are also worrying nonprofit development directors. The Chronicle of Philanthropy estimated last week that more than \$558 million had been raised for the terrorist victims, and the Foundation Center reported that contributions from corporations and foundations alone totaled more than \$400 million. The American Red Cross reported it had raised \$200 million. Those numbers have left small nonprofits worried that donors are being tapped out.

"The challenge lies in donor fatigue," said NGLTF's Robbins.

Even before the terror attacks,



Horizons' Peter Teague

directors said they had been bracing for budget shortfalls as they prepare their programs for 2002. Due to the faltering economy, many organizations had begun to see their revenue sources begin to dry up.

"Our revenues have been down in each of three areas. Our corporate donations are off, our foundation and individual fund raising is off," said Teague. "I know for example looking at our individual donors, 42 percent of those who gave last year are giving less than what they did last year."

The organization's fundraising this year has been hampered by not only the economy, but also by the loss of its development director six months ago. Despite those difficulties, Teague said Horizon's annual benefit event held September 20 surpassed expectations, raising more than \$200,000.

"We know that when our board gets really engaged and does a good job of fundraising, we can offset what is happening in the economy and the world," said Teague.

Groups dependent on the government or corporate donors may not be so lucky. They are having to look elsewhere for funds. At Dolores Street Community Services, newly hired development director Mason Jeffrys said he is doubtful the nonprofit will receive much city support next year. This year, the organization received a substantial amount of funding from the city's "add-back" program, which is funded partly by tourism dollars.

"We are not expecting that to be around next year," said Jeffrys. "The city is operating on a much tighter budget."

Instead of looking at the city's coffers, Jeffrys said his efforts will focus on residents of the Mission and Castro districts. With his organization one of the beneficiaries of this weekend's Castro Street

Fair, Jeffrys is organizing staff and volunteers to collect donations at the gates.

"We are really going to put out an appeal to individuals to start supporting the local nonprofits that are in their neighborhood," he said.

Community United Against Violence has begun a campaign to try to raise between \$150,000 and \$200,000 over the next 18 months. The group pushed back one event until November due to the attacks. And like DSCS, it is trying to wean itself off government assistance.



CUAV's Terry Person

"We are largely dependent on government grants. We are trying to change that and diversify our funding streams," said Terry Person, CUAV executive director. "We are moving forward with that effort, though it is more difficult now. I tend to remain optimistic and upbeat and expect we will be able to prevail over the long haul, though it is pretty tight right now."

Not only are government funds drying up for nonprofits, but foundations are also pulling back on their level of support. Many foundations have been adversely affected by the devaluation of the stock market.

"Looking at the stock market and the value of the endowments of many foundations, the value has decreased dramatically," said LYRIC's Cheu. "Some figures show a loss of 25 percent, so they are going to be giving out less this year."

While the HRC reports it is meeting its 2001 budget, the organization did not project an increase in funding over its 2000 budget.

"We projected an even budget this year so HRC would be prepared for a downturn in the economy," said Nelson.

As many organizations brace themselves for economic hard times, some have yet to be im-

pacted financially by the current events. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has reported it is seeing a stronger response than normal to its current fundraising campaigns.

"These awful recent events have made people think about their role in their community. It has generated a desire in people to do good, to be involved and to be engaged in their community," said Gustavo Suárez, SFAF director of communications. "I think it speaks volumes about the Bay Area. Other parts of the country have really seen a drop in their ability to fund raise."

However, Suárez said if the economy continues to recess, the

foundation's fundraising will likely suffer.

"If that continues, I would think it would have to have some impact on our fundraising ability," he said.

While their work will be cut out for them, many directors and executives remain optimistic. And of course, even in these economically-depressed times, it never hurts to ask loyal donors for a bit more help.

"I talked to one of our largest donors last week who said he is going to increase his donations to all organizations he gives to because he knows a lot of people can't do that," said Horizons' Teague. ▽

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AIDS during wartime

by Matt Sharp, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

In the last several weeks, a national emergency has gained the attention and focus of America and the world. The terrorist attacks on U.S. soil has caused an astounding mobilization and response that is unprecedented in modern times. The attack was so abrupt and atrocious that people have been motivated to act quickly, without question, in a great outpouring of support.

The Bush administration has been motivated to coordinate a multipronged strategy to respond to the emergency with a wide scope of government operations including intelligence, finance, law enforcement, diplomacy, and the military. He has executive privilege to enact legislation to thwart further terrorism and to aid the weakened economy due to the attacks. Bush even created a special Cabinet position for "homeland security" and has become the nation's cheerleader to help boost the national spirit.

Countries all over the world showed incomparable grief and governments are signing onto the Bush administration's coalition to stop terrorists through military and intelligence actions.

America's new war is in preparation, as a massive mobilization of troops is well under way. Plans

for attack of not only Afghanistan but other countries are possible if not inevitable. Expensive intelligence operations using high tech equipment are being deployed at levels never before seen.

The deluge of dollars from public and private sources has been astonishing in the aftermath of the attacks. In two weeks charities raised half a billion dollars for victims and their families. The U.S. government is said to have committed \$40 billion to the disaster. The entertainment industry presented a telethon shown on four major television networks (and several cable channels) that raised over \$150 million in just two hours.

Broadway performers, comedians, and musicians also have promised millions from live and recorded benefits. The phenomenal reaction to the attacks will most certainly have unfavorable consequences to all national programs including efforts to combat AIDS that were under way or being planned before September 11. Jessica Matthews from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace stated that there is a whole set of worldwide issues that we cannot let go of in order to focus on the single issue of terrorism. The Associated Press has reported news of impending financial losses to many charitable organizations from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation to the Salvation Army. The huge response to the

September 11 attacks may force organizations to postpone fund drives, lay off employees, and scale back programs. Clearly the attack has taken the focus away from important charity work.

There is great concern about the future of AIDS and how the government and public will respond in wartime. There is already a slowing of government funding for AIDS and talk that pharmaceutical companies are losing interest in research and development as competition has become

that the attacks were more immediate and emotional, but anyone who has survived AIDS would say that AIDS is just as poignant and still spreading out of control.

An estimated 21.8 million people have died from AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. As of December 2000, there were over 8,000 worldwide AIDS deaths every day last year. Almost 6,000 people are dead or missing from the terrorist attacks.

Laura Thomas, a longtime San Francisco AIDS activist, acknowl-

ed in an e-mail correspondence, "I will admit that I am struck by how we (myself included) respond to deaths that are immediately horrifying and overwhelming, such as those in New York, versus those that are unseen or drawn out or in other countries. The total number of people who have died from AIDS is so much larger than those in New York, and each one is in its own way horrifying and unnecessary and undeserved yet the emotional reaction to the terrorist attacks is so much stronger."

Thomas concluded, "I'm not quite sure what all this (response to the terrorists) means, except maybe to demonstrate that when we as a nation really want to, we can mobilize vast resources, and we clearly haven't with AIDS." It has been said that the cataclysmic events of September 11 will change our world. Change the way we live, the way we react, and change our sensibility to people all over the world. If this is true, tragedies like AIDS will not be placed on the back burner and will receive the attention it deserves as yet another living hell on earth, despite concurrent catastrophes such as the terrorist attacks on the U.S. ▼

Why didn't the world react to the global AIDS epidemic as effectively as it has to the terrorist attacks?

too great. Government HIV research efforts will most certainly be affected if the National Institutes of Health begins prioritizing funds for research into the threat of biological warfare.

Why didn't the world react to the global AIDS epidemic as effectively as it has to the terrorist attacks? One wonders, given the huge loss of life caused by AIDS, and the fact that the global crisis remains an overwhelming menace, why hasn't more been done? While it is not fair to pit disasters against each other, just as it is not fair to claim that any disease is more exceptional than another, it is shocking to compare the worldwide and national response to AIDS to the response to the terrorist attacks. Some will say

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The American government was only willing to commit \$200 million to UNAIDS, for the global HIV/AIDS and health fund. The amount needed to combat global AIDS is close to \$7 billion.

Thomas added, "We need to develop strategies to keep a focus on AIDS that doesn't detract from

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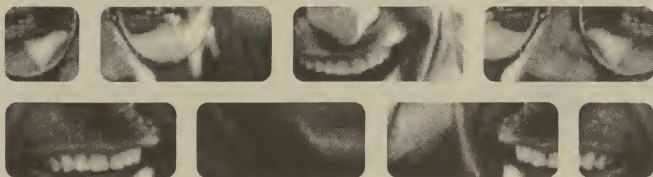
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Men at Work: Building a Community

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Gay Life, promoting Gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

All Gay Life programs are free of charge. Register in advance, space is limited. For more information and reservations call 415.788.LIFE or visit www.gaylife.org.

SJ Pride

◀ page 12

growing popularity with the Bay Area's LGBT community.

"I think it's because over the last few years we have been paying off all of our old debts, and plus, we have developed a reputation now. So more and more people attend our celebration because they really enjoy themselves," said Gonzales.

Organizations that serve the needs of the San Jose community

are eligible for the grants. While preference will be given to gay and lesbian organizations, any group may apply.

The Pride committee is also seeking applicants to fill two board vacancies. The current positions open on the 11-person committee are secretary and board member. Women are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications for both the committee seats and grants are available on San Jose Pride's Web site at www.sjgaypride.com or by calling (408) 278-5563. ▼

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David Fowler dies at 57

by Peter Mintun

David Fowler died Tuesday, September 25 in San Francisco's Davies Hospital. He was well known as a broadcast journalist and media consultant. The cause of death was cancer and complications from AIDS. He was 57.

A native of Watsonville, Mr. Fowler was a disk jockey in San Jose before he began his career as a KCBS radio reporter in 1971. He subsequently became news editor and bureau chief in San Jose. In 1975 he began a career in television reporting, first for KPIX as a general assignment reporter and midday news anchor. His on-screen partner was Betsy Davis, who noted at his memorial service that they remained lifelong friends. His natural good looks earned him the nickname "The Robert Redford of KPIX."

Beginning in 1980 he was news anchor and reporter at KRON. During these years he interviewed many statesmen, presidents, celebrities, and the infamous Supervisor Dan White, who later assassinated Supervisor Harvey Milk. In the award-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk* (Black Sand Productions, 1984), Mr. Fowler is the TV reporter interviewing White.

Mr. Fowler's association with the San Francisco Fire Department began in the mid-1970s when he befriended fire Captain Andrew Casper. Fowler volunteered his communications know-how and began a long career with



David Fowler

emergency services all over the country. When Captain Casper left the San Francisco Fire Department to work for Federal Emergency Management Agency, he recommended Fowler for a position, which he kept for 17 years, up until his death. Fowler became a disaster assistance employee for FEMA in the area of public information and media concerns.

In meteorological circles, Mr. Fowler also was associate editor of *Earthweek*, a feature syndicated to more than 100 North American newspapers, and editor of *Geowatch*, a companion feature appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

His fascination with emergencies and San Francisco history led to a highly respected book, *Denial of Disaster: The Untold Story and Photographs of the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906* (Cameron & Co., 1989).

Mr. Fowler was the editor of the book, which was written by Emmett Condon and Gladys Hansen, archivist for the city and county of San Francisco and

founder and director of the Museum of San Francisco. He also created and maintained the Web site for the Museum of the City of San Francisco, including his own excellent profiles of famous San Francisco performers.

According to Hansen, retired archivist, the site has won worldwide recognition. One fan sent an e-mail saying, "Your Web site is as grand as San Francisco itself."

After Mr. Fowler retired from his television career, he voluntarily produced many radio shows at KALW-FM 91.7 including "Come On and Hear" (Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band), "Peter Mintun's Music in the Air," "Jazz Sweet and Hot" (Don Neely's Royal Society Jazz Orchestra), "Broadway Melody" (Judy McConkey, host) and "Edna Fischer's Melody Time." He not only conceived and produced the shows, but also engineered them and occasionally announced. His live broadcasts of hot jazz music from Peacock Court of the Hotel Mark Hopkins (mid 1980s) are legendary.

He is the son of Marian and the late Glenn Fowler of San Jose. A younger sister, Janine Fowler, preceded him in death. He is survived by a sister, Susan Borebons, and a brother Daniel Fowler (both of San Jose) and many nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Bothin Burn Center at St. Francis Hospital.

Funeral arrangements were made by Green Street Mortuary, San Francisco. ▼

Chris George Janecke
1952 — 2001



Chris George Janecke, born 1952, Rock Island, IL. Graduated 1970. Attended Illinois State University where he was elected to the student senate and served as president of the student corporation.

He was an activist in the anti-Vietnam War, anti-draft movement, and was a major organizer for many liberal causes in the 1970s.

He worshipped God daily with his love of nature and animals, and thanked God daily for his gift of love from his partner Bob Hiltzley, his friends and family. After living in San Francisco for over 20 years, the last two years of his life he spent in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he passed away on September 18, 2001. Chris was a long-time J.C. Penney sales associate and had many friends at Penney's, both in California and Florida. He is survived by his mother, his brothers Jerry and Ron, his sister Judy, his good friend John McDonnell, his constant companion and furry friend Jake, and his life partner Robert Hiltzley.

Chris's name will be added to the Circle of Friends in the AIDS Memorial Grove at Golden Gate Park.

Chris's ashes will be scattered on San Francisco Bay by the Neptune Society. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2001, at 9 a.m. at The Church of the Advent of Christ the King, at 261 Fell St. All those who knew and loved Chris are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Bob Hiltzley at (954) 568-5638, or write to LauderdaleBob@cs.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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End zone

by Jim Provenzano

"They hate what they see right here in this chamber — a democratically-elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed."

— George W. Bush, self-appointed president, on the dislikes of terrorists

Despite having made inroads in nearly every aspect of professional sports, particularly soccer and basketball, football remains a men-only domain in pro sports.

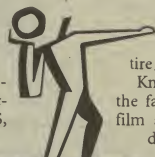
Mylene Moreno's documentary *True-Hearted Vixens*, shown recently on PBS, recounts the trials and travails of 80 women who tried out and competed in the short-lived Women's Professional Football League in 1999. She focuses on two of the players who made the cut for the WPFL's first exhibition tour. Jane Bolin, a political consultant turned linebacker, and Kerria "Moochie" Lofton, a single mother, are both accomplished athletes who gave their best in the short-lived team.

Their obstacles turned out to be harder than tackle dummies. Battling stereotypes of gender roles in athletics became compounded by the marketing and naming of teams like the Vixens and the Minx.

Sponsorships by the breast-festive Hooters restaurants only added to the sexual innuendo of the promotional campaign run by an all-male staff. Despite the lurid approach, attendance was spotty and corporate sponsorship minimal, leaving the players questioning their role in the entire scheme.

Knowing the outcome of the failed league gives the film an air of impending doom. Despite their best efforts to battle each other onfield, and combat stereotypes all around, the NFL-style league almost collapsed before the six-game exhibition season ended.

Director Moreno, whose previous work includes *The Hunt for Pancho Villa*, *The American Experience*, and the first episode of *Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*, offers a serious look at a com-



Sports Complex



University of North Carolina fans get cozy after their team's victory over Florida "let's rig an election" State.

elling aspect of sexism in sport.

The groundbreaking PBS series *POV* broadcast *True-Hearted Vixens* in July, but it will hopefully be available on video or at an independent film festival near you. I wanted to recount this bittersweet documentary as a tie-in to our local women's football team's upcoming event.

Huddle out

The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League is holding its first-ever fundraiser. Hut, hut, hike it on over to El Rio for a sporting good time.

Huddle up with our only Women's Flag Football League in the Bay Area! You will experience the talent and Tour De Force of the league because most of the entertainment is provided by the players in the league! A fabulous lineup of extremely talented women are ready to make this event a fun-loving fest amid these troubled times.

The lineup includes music by Boy Skout, Tartufi, Judea Eden, Precious Jeffrey, Laura Chandler, Monique Cook, Michelle Mitchell & Michelle Ina, and the all-women's blue grass band Aunt Fred. The host and MC is Fairy Butch, and D.J. music provided by Sharon. As if that weren't enough, you can enjoy drag king performances by Corey Feel Good, Arty Fischel, Ida Ho, and Private I, who will offer entertaining amusements.

Up for sale are hot date auctions with six "sexy, fine, handsome, sweet, luscious women." Whew, that's a lot of adjectives, no doubt each one worthy of the participants. Charitable drawing with lots of fabulous prizes should inspire you to bring a full wallet. Twenty percent of door cover goes to Sports4Kids, a nonprofit organization that promotes sports for the little ones, and the September 11th Fund disaster relief for my beloved New York City.

Mark next Saturday, October 13 on your GLBT sports calendar. It's all going to be at El Rio bar, located at 3158 Mission Street between Cesar Chavez and Valencia Street in San Francisco, from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Door cover is \$6, but you can certainly donate more. For more info about the league, go to www.sfwwfl.com or call (415) 401-0197.

No worries

Representatives from the revamped Sydney 2002 board will be on hand at a special meeting to answer questions about Gay Games VI, scheduled for the last week of October (arts festival) and the first week of November next year. The local meeting is tonight (Thursday, October 4) from 6-8 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood (behind Cala Foods in the Castro).

San Francisco's gay basketball program has a host of games hap-

pening in the auditorium at the Rec Center that evening (and through December), starting at 6:45 and running until about 9:30. People who come to meet with the Sydney folks are also encouraged to walk across the hall to watch a gold-medal winning program in action.

Get your goat

Despite the threat of war, and with millions of refugees abandoning their homes, Afghanistan wants to take part in a cricket tournament. They were accepted, but whether they can play depends on the circumstances. Cricket became popular in the mid-1880s, when Imperial Brits invaded the rough terrain, but cricket never rivaled the national sport of Buzkashi, in which teams of horsemen vie for possession of a headless goat carcass by tossing its head around polo style.

Dumb ball

Critics chided NFL football bigwigs for stalling over suspending gridiron games following September 11. One can just imagine the teeth-grinding meetings and estimated loss of revenue for the NFL's commercial sponsors. While players were more sympathetic (why not? They still got paid), the rulers of this pigskin domain seemed downright piggy for preferring profit over piety.

Whether you're a merely amused fan of football, more for the tight uniforms than the actual playing, or a hardcore devotee, you might have a few questions for Joe Theismann. The former pro player will be reading Thursday, October 4 at Stacey's Bookstore. His new book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Football*, is at the top of my gift wish list.

I don't, however, expect to find answers to my unorthodox queries from either hunky Theismann or his book, such as:

- Do players enjoy wearing white translucent pants that are tighter than a ballet dancer's?
- Should helmets be redesigned so players can kiss when they offer congratulatory hugs?
- Who's your favorite convicted felon pro football player?
- What can be read from the homoerotic bonding ritual of butt-patting?
- Is Ed McCaffrey as gorgeous in person as he is on TV? Since he's out for the season with a broken leg, will he consider some form of worthy public service, like posing for *Playgirl*? I can't think of a better way to raise spirits, among other things.

Theismann appears at 12:30 p.m., at Stacey's, 581 Market Street, (415) 421-4687, or visit <http://www.staceys.com>.

Ringers

Other events of various nature that are guaranteed to distract you

include yet another installment of Incredibly Strange Wrestling.

This special "Jerry Phalwell" edition is homo-er than ever, with music by the Queers, Fabulous Disaster (might want to reconsider the band name, guys), and the Desperation Squad (ditto).

The highlight Evening Gown match is purportedly between the Poontangler and El Homo Loco, one of the skinniest and cutest nose-ringed strange pro wrestlers in the Mission District, if not this entire county.

Expect lots of colorful lucha libra masks, mucho testosterone, and fantabulous ring-nastics from the likes of El Hijo de Carne Asada, The Cruiser, The Oi Boy, The Mexican Viking, Macho Sasquatcho, and Super Bueno.

This "Epic Fairy Bonanza" commences Saturday, October 6, 9 p.m., at the Fillmore, 1805 Geary at Fillmore. (415) 346-6000. Tix are \$18.50, www.thefillmore.com.

Why they didn't buy a big ad in this or any other gay publication while being so blatantly homophobic is beyond me. Who says wrestling isn't gay?

Speaking of gay wrestling, kudos to all who bought beer, T-shirts, and singlets from Golden Gate Wrestling at the group's Folsom Street Fair booths. The club made several thousand dollars, enough to send some grapplers down under for Gay Games VI.

Dive in

Feeling more aquatic than combative? Join the Swim a Mile for Women with Cancer, October 6 and 7 at Mills College in Oakland. This non-competitive event is open to all ages and skill levels. Proceeds benefit the Women's Cancer Research Center. Info: (510) 548-9286, ext. 305, or www.wcrc.org.

Spiked heels

Wanna escape with a good movie? If you missed my review a few weeks back, here's a reminder. *The Iron Ladies* is utterly fabulous, the best transgender sports movie ever! Okay, so it's the only transgender sports movie. So what? Go see it at the Opera Plaza Cinema.

Criminal intense

The Supreme Court, those folks who b(r)ought you the presidential (s)election, have determined that, based on a sexual harassment case, it is illegal for men to grab their crotches in public. There goes the baseball season. ▼

Jim Provenzano is the author of *PINS*, which was called "the best gay wrestling novel ever" by four out of five flag-waving anti-war patriots. Visit www.myrmidude.com to buy an autographed copy. To get your sports event promoted, simply e-mail jimprov@hotmail.com.

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U.S. bias has long history

by Gregory Tejeda, UPI

Will Congress approve financial reparations to U.S. citizens and immigrants of Arab descent in the year 2050 because of any indignities they may suffer in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center? If history is any indication, the answer could be "yes."

Violence and incidents directed against U.S. citizens and immigrants of Arab descent have increased since the September 11 attacks.

The Arab American Bar Association on Wednesday, September 26 released a report documenting hundreds of attacks against people suspected of being of Arabic ancestry or of the Muslim faith. Association Director William Haddad said there also have been several attacks on people of Hispanic or African American descent who were suspected by unknowing whites of being Arab or Muslim.

In response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon, both the U.S. government and many state governments are considering new laws that allow for tougher criminal penalties against people who commit acts that are perceived as supportive of terrorist behavior.

They also would make it easier for criminal prosecutors to say just what constitutes terrorist behavior. President Bush last week created an Office of Homeland Security to study the issue, and Attorney General John Ashcroft has proposed several changes in criminal statutes for wiretapping and surveillance that are perceived by some as an infringement on the civil liberties of U.S. citizens.

History shows this is nothing new. Throughout the 20th century, there were several instances where the federal government "made the wrong decision" in dealing with threats to U.S. security, said Harvey Grossman of the American Civil Liberties Union.

LGBT fund

◀ page 3

"Donations to the fund will be allocated by a community panel to where the greatest unmet needs of our community are," said Robin Jacobson, director of development.

It is still unknown how many LGBT members were lost in the attacks. While some estimates report at least 40 LGBT people were killed, the Empire State Pride Agenda is trying to compile a more accurate list.

The disaster relief fund will be distributed to other groups providing housing, legal services, or counseling to those New Yorkers impacted by the attacks. Checks should be made out to: Stonewall Community Foundation (earmarked for disaster relief). The address is: Stonewall Community Foundation, 119 W. 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Donations to the fund are tax-deductible. For more information, e-mail Robin@stonewallfoundation.org, or call (212) 367-1155.

LeGaL has offered to be listed as a legal resource for people with LGBT-related legal problems in any way related to the tragedy. LeGaL's telephone number is (212) 353-9118 and the e-mail address is legal@interport.net. Ask for Dan Schaffer. ▼

The Sedition Act of 1918 made "innocuous" comments a criminal offense, Grossman said at a Northwestern University seminar on national security versus civil liberties. Grossman said he thinks surveillance activities by the FBI and law enforcement agencies during the 1960s against Civil Rights movement leaders "were not just about intelligence, they were to disrupt and destroy the leaders."

In the latter category, Grossman cited the Chicago Police Department's infamous "Red Squad," a surveillance unit that allegedly was searching for communist activity, but wound up focusing on dissidents of all types. Police admitted during the settlement of a

lawsuit in the early 1980s to committing more than 500 illegal break-ins between 1948 and 1968. Grossman also noted that interviews conducted by the FBI in 1990 during the Persian Gulf War often "ambushed" people of the Arab and Muslim communities, and seemed interested in collecting information about their numbers and views.

But Grossman cited the internment of citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent during World War II as "the most embarrassing act" of the U.S. government. He said he already sees a parallel between behavior then toward the Japanese and current behavior toward people of Arab heritage.

In the weeks after the sneak attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor, about 700 suspected Japanese sympathizers were detained and placed under strict curfews. About 300 Arabs in the U.S. have been detained during the past two weeks. Most of those detentions have been by the Immigration and Naturalization Service because of visa problems.

"There are millions of deportable people in the United States but they [the INS] are focusing on people of Arab descent, and that is serious. This raises the specter of past cases," Grossman said.

U.S. conduct toward Japanese Americans during World War II already has resulted in financial

payments to people to compensate them for their losses, and Grossman said that similar over-reactions could result in a repeat in the future.

"These are the gravest of times," Grossman said. "Caution is what our history counsels us. We need to balance the needs of national security with our civil liberties policies."

Haddad, director of the Arab American Bar Association, said the proposed legal changes being touted by Ashcroft do not automatically concern him, as long as politicians realize the implications of long-term changes and accept responsibility for making the new laws. ▼

Dom. violence

◀ page 1

nouncing the program's launch, adding that the "familiar and frequently trusting" nature of the relationship between hairdressers and clients may allow for a more honest conversation about home life to occur.

"With this program, we will help to put an end to violence against women," said Hallinan, in a summary statement echoed by all the speakers at the Hall of Justice.

Only a representative from the Asian Women's Shelter acknowledged that not all female clients were heterosexual. CUAV representatives were not in attendance. A press packet did include a small card from CUAV recognizing woman-to-woman abuse, but again, gay men and transgenders were notably absent from all public announcements about domestic violence scenarios.

Privately and away from the rest of the media, Hallinan told

the *Bay Area Reporter* that he "was wondering" why CUAV was not at the news conference, and that the hairdresser project should in fact include gay male victims.

"Two of our participating hairdressers are gay males, so they would probably take the same position when it came to recognizing abuse in that population," said Hallinan, adding that the city recently got a shelter for gay male victims and that his office does prosecute male-to-male domestic violence.

The male hairdressers involved in the program are from DeKroon Salon at 303 Sutter Street, according to Fred Gardner, spokesman for the D.A.'s office. Another participating salon, Hot Headz, at 24th Street between Noe and Castro, also undoubtedly serves the gay community well.

But there is no assurance that heterosexual hairdressers are being adequately prepared to acknowledge LGBT domestic violence, particularly since according to the press conference men are

not even considered potential victims.

This concerns Shawna Virago, domestic violence survivor program director at CUAV.

"Domestic violence is still too often assumed to be a heterosexual woman's problem only," Virago told the *B.A.R.*, adding that the hairdresser project is "a good idea, but we need to work out some kinks."

Although CUAV was invited to the D.A.'s press conference, Virago was out of the office until this week. She vowed that CUAV would strive to "work with the program and really expose the depth of our domestic violence problem."

Virago, who has been at CUAV for five years, said LGBT domestic violence cases in San Francisco have remained steady around 600 to 700 a year. Of those cases reported, woman-to-woman violence statistics were compiled by CUAV, the Asian Women's Shelter, and Women Inc., and the male and transgender cases were reported only to CUAV. The most

recent numbers show 691 queer and same-sex violence cases; 204 from gay men, and 52 from transgender survivors.

The agencies involved in hairdresser trainings include the Asian Women's Shelter, the Victims Services Unit, the Riley Center for Battered Women, La Casa de las Madres, and San Francisco General Hospital. Although CUAV is listed by the D.A.'s office as a training organization, other sources dispute that information, claiming that CUAV has only been asked to be a resource. Virago said her priorities will be to have a "bigger voice at the trainings," and to emphasize that "our relationship models are different, particularly where there are transgenders, or multiple partners, involved. The 'same-sex' label doesn't adequately cover all the ways the LGBT community does relationships."

"The DA and the participating organizations are well intentioned," she said. "But clearly there is a lot more that needs to be done." ▼

D.C. DP

◀ page 14

the floor of the House, saying, "Marriage is under assault from culture, the media, and many other entities." He claimed that lifting the ban on implementation would "place heterosexual and homosexual cohabiting relationships on an equal footing with traditional marriage."

The openly gay members of Congress strenuously opposed the amendment. Republican Jim Kolbe (Arizona), who had led the fight in committee, called it "an expression of unadulterated bigotry ... The fact is that our traditional families have changed in American society. We should be uniting our country."

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) said, "This amendment could mean the difference between a person having a sensible health care plan or no plan at all. It could mean the difference between wellness and illness for the families of city employees." She urged them to accept the decision of local authorities.

"Let us be very clear," said Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), speaking of certain members' dislike of homosexuals, "I am far beyond losing sleep about what the Taliban or anybody else thinks about the way I live. But what I assert is my right to live that way equally and freely as an American, and I implore my colleagues, what motivates them to inflict pain on fellow citizens who have done no wrong?"

Representative Tom DeLay (R-Texas), the enforcer who many believe really runs the Republican Party in the House of Representatives, rarely speaks during floor debate. He attempted to rally support for the amendment by arguing that failure to do so "would radically undermine the special privileges and incentives of marriage by distributing them without requiring the unique commitment between a man and a woman."

But when the final vote was counted, 41 Republicans joined with 184 Democrats and one independent to defeat Weldon's amendment. "It was extremely significant because we beat Tom DeLay," said Schmid. "They used him on the floor of the House, and he lost. I think that is very significant."

"It's obviously historic," said Kevin Ivers, spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans. "I don't think we would have gotten that many Republicans two years ago, particularly from California. But they have become educated on the issue" because of the debate going on in that state's Legislature and local jurisdictions.

Stachelberg cautioned against premature celebration. "A hurdle has been crossed, but we still have to worry about the Senate and about the administration." She admits, though, that the Senate has always been less of a problem than the House on these social issues.

A Boy Scouts amendment had a less pleasing outcome. Offered by right wing firebrand Represen-

tative John Hostettler (R-Indiana), it prohibited use of local funds to enforce a ruling against the Scouts by the D.C. Human Rights Commission.

In June that body ruled that the Scouts had discriminated against two gay scoutmasters, in violation of the D.C. Human Rights Act. It used grounds other than those employed by the U.S. Supreme Court in allowing the Scouts to discriminate. The D.C. agency's decision has been appealed.

D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) argued that such an amendment undercut the legal process and should be defeated. But opponents had made a strategic decision to concentrate on the domestic partners amendment and virtually conceded this one. It passed by a vote of 262 to 152, as

54 Democrats joined 207 Republicans.

The D.C. appropriations measure that passed the House has 34 riders attached to it that do such things as deny the expenditure of local funds for abortion services and to operate a needle exchange program to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases.

Work on the bill in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee stalled unexpectedly last week. Schmid blamed it on Senator Trent Lott's (R-Mississippi) maneuvering on social issues. But Schmid does not have significant concern with the Senate. "If we don't get what we want in committee, then we have got to go to the floor, because we can win there," he said. ▼

Queeruption

◀ page 5

Friday to the genderqueer discussions and anti-racism, anti-war strategy sessions around San Francisco on Saturday to the self-defense classes, music, and crafts workshops in Oakland on Sunday.

"I see Queeruption as a gathering of queers from around the world who don't see themselves, their desires, or their values reflected by mainstream queer culture, media, or services," Thea Hillman, a Queeruption organizer, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We've created infoshares and events that address the social and political issues we care about as

well as the kind of fun we want to have, and the kind of community we want to create. Our main focus has been on inclusiveness, with all that entails, taking into account diversity of age, race, physical ability, and income. My hope is that for five days, we create a little queer utopia in the East Bay and San Francisco, one where passionate political discourses co-exist with great food, sexy flirting, and long-lasting friendships."

It is an exciting time for progressive queers who refuse to view gay issues through one narrow lens, so plan your long weekend accordingly. A detailed schedule of events is available at www.queeruption.org. For more information, call (510) 704-8323. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS



The Mayor's Criminal Justice Council is inviting community based agencies to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for gang outreach and youth violence prevention programs in areas of the City with concentrated amounts of serious and violent youth crimes. Eligible non-profit organizations with experience in providing services to delinquent and at risk youth in San Francisco are invited to participate. Applications will be available on October 9, 2001 at:

Mayors Criminal Justice Council
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 496,
San Francisco CA 94102

The RFP will also
be available to download at
www.ci.sf.ca.us/mcjcf/forms.htm

RFP applications are due on November 2, 2001 by 5:00 PM
For more information call 554-6260.

Please note, no late proposals will be accepted.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION
CASE NUMBER: DA67767
City & County of San Francisco v. Pernal V. Roberts upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Antoinette Sueli, and it is satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Pernal V. Roberts cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or defendant, respondent, or citee and that the said defendant, respondent, or citee is a necessary and proper party to the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of ... Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco, California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Filed 09/07/01.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251299
The following person(s) are doing business as: Frantz 4444 17th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed William Dirk Burns. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324601
In the Matter of the Application of Sara Lynne Rittenhouse For change of Name. The application of Sara Lynne Rittenhouse for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sara Lynne Rittenhouse has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sara St. Martin Lynne. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251296
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rogue Art Space, 4360 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin M. Grady and Mark S. Rubnitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251353
The following person(s) are doing business as: MusicResources USA, Corvette Club Of San Francisco, 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terryl S. Smith, pres. CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 30, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/30/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251427
The following person(s) are doing business as: Floors By Ed, 1220-14th Avenue #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Edmond Gorka, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 05, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/05/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0202440
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Takarajima. Located at: 633 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 01, 1996. This business was conducted by: a individual: Shigeko Ichikawa.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251574
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Gidrau Group, 155 Harriet Street #19, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy G. Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/12/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251560
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sir Fox Home Craftsman, 122 Hearst Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kenneth Wayne Hinton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 17, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/17/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251564
The following person(s) are doing business as: Osaka Sushi Vallejo. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Fragal, Inc. Efrén Galang, pres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/12/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324504
In the Matter of the Application of Ruthann Lowe For change of Name. The application of Ruthann Lowe for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ruthann Lowe has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Uma Schmideke. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324600
In the Matter of the Application of Elise Carol Wadle For change of Name. The application of Elise Carol Wadle for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elise Carol Wadle has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Eli Carroll Wadley. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324339
In the Matter of the Application of Rima Missakian For change of Name. The application of Rima Missakian for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rima Missakian has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rima Hripsimheh Missakiani. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 5th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251849
The following person(s) are doing business as: B&B Vending, 57 Taylor Street, #412, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert W. McCrady. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/25/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251671
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mickey Bailey Construction, 3880 23rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael S. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/2001.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251748
The following person(s) are doing business as: Acanthus Art And Antiques, 344 Noe Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne David Hand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 20, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2001.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251606
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cafe Muse, 785 8th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Xiao, Zhuo Yu and Xiao, Yong Quan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/13/2001.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251754
The following person(s) are doing business as: Love Buds, 34 Gladys Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jon Von Erb. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/28/2001.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0213247-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Attic Club. Located at: 3336 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 17, 1997. This business was conducted by: Co-Partners: William Young, Leonard Young, & Shelly Murphy.
SEPT. 27, OCT. 4, 11, 18, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251922
The following person(s) are doing business as: Mission Soapworks, 76 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Donald B. Martin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/28/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251965
The following person(s) are doing business as: MSRCommunications, 1847 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed MSR, Comm, LLC (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251824
The following person(s) are doing business as: Baby Ruth's, 564 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Phyllis Schrobosdorff, Courtney Schrobosdorff & Nguay Lay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/24/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251818
The following person(s) are doing business as: Peruvian Goodies, 3566 17th Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Raul G. Calderon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/24/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251789
The following person(s) are doing business as: Heads Up Hair Care, 1233 Castro Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mr. Lynn T. Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/21/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251976
The following person(s) are doing business as: MLH Productions, 903 1/2 Northpoint, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michelle Hansen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2001.
OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2001



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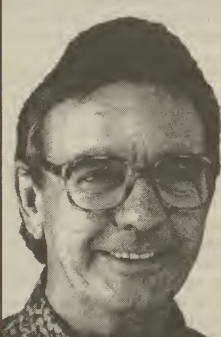
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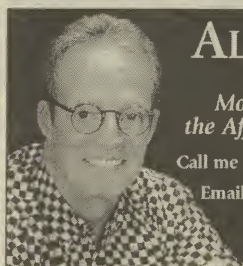
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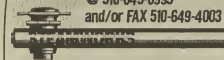
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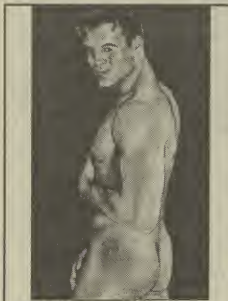
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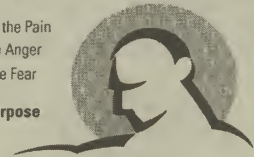
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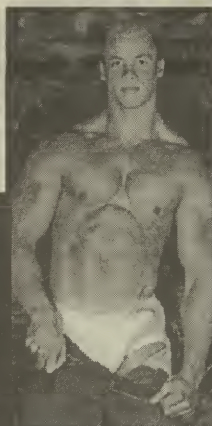
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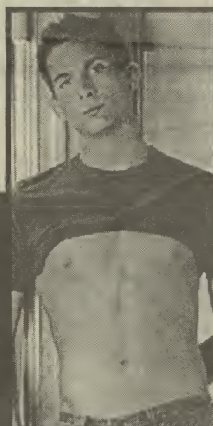
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Escape from New York

'Out on Video' suggests twelve feel-good comedies as antidotes to autumn anxiety.
page 43

Totally quacked

Queer comedy with gay comic Sabrina Matthews.
page 32



Model behavior

Ben Stiller on playing fashion victim Zoolander.
page 33



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 40 • 4 October 2001

Safety in numbers

Gay artists band together for Open Studios

Boyfriends at the Beach, by Robert Morgan, 2001



by Mark Mardon

For gay painter Robert Morgan, who specializes in sunny portraits of clean-cut young men frolicking on beaches and in saunas, sexual identity and artistic expression go hand-and-hand. "One of the things about being a gay artist," he said one recent afternoon, not long before the world turned topsy turvy, "is the subject I'm painting is also tied up into my sexual attraction."

By contrast, painter David Fink, in whose front room most of the members of the Gay and Lesbian Artists Alliance (GLAA) were gathered for an informal meeting and media presentation, said he never lets his being gay influence his art: "My subject matter has nothing at all to do with gay men or sexuality."

A row of brightly colored, '50s-style gas pumps; a line of brightly colored doors on a roadside motel; windows in a walk-up in New York City, some curtained, others revealing blackness within — these are common elements in Fink's enigmatic canvases. The places he renders seem forlorn, almost desolate. No human figures populate Fink's perfect, still world. When you gaze at his canvases for a while, the stark, flat realism begins to shift, giving way to dreamscapes. You can't help wondering what's going on behind those doors, within those darkened rooms, and why there isn't a cute attendant at the gas pumps. Is Fink hiding something behind those doors? Is he not letting something out of the closet?

"Though it's inside of me, I have yet to find a way to bring it out without totally going crazy," says Fink of his gayness. His interest in men does not translate directly to his art, which he describes as "all about composition, color, how shapes interact."

Is Fink's work "gay art," other than in
page 42 ▶

Exploring the riches of the 24th Mill Valley Film Festival

Gangsters and executives

by David Lambie

If British films are a guilty pleasure for you as they are for me, the 24th Mill Valley Film Festival (October 4-14 at multiple Marin County venues) is an Anglo-cineste's delight.

In *My Brother Tom*, the classic British boarding-school coming-of-age film is savagely and brilliantly updated by a quintet of talented filmmakers and an astonishing young cast. Jessica (Jenna Harrison) is a Catholic schoolgirl who faces down some boys who have cornered a scrawny birdlike boy up a tree. Taunted for being a virgin, Jessica reaches out to the bird boy (Ben Whishaw, who at times bears a queer and sometimes chilling resemblance to the young Tony Perkins), and the two begin to meet secretly in the small forest near her house.

What starts as a lark in the woods starts to smell of incest as Tom and Jessica swear a kind of blood oath, share terrible secrets, and almost literally try to crawl inside each other. Tom and Jessica retreat to a kind of preliterate state, exchanging language for animal cries. At home, Jessica stops talking to her parents and older sister — it's as if she's dating a werewolf. *My Brother Tom* can be like visiting Eden after a bite of the apple, a worm's-eye view of British teen life, from raves to drunken sleepovers. (10/7, Sequoia; 10/9, Rafael)

"Paradise is for the blessed, not the sex-obsessed." In 1968, whole nations were in revolt, but many of us "revolting queers" were not yet in the streets. Often we were at the local art-film theatres, waiting to be delivered into the arms of some sexy ruffian, often as not British. '68 was the year of Mick Travis, the swashbuckling leader of an army of English schoolboys in Lindsay Anderson's *if....* Twenty-five-year-old Malcolm McDowell was sex on legs, captured at the height of his beauty in a quixotic film, a quarter of which had been shot in black-and-white for reasons that seemed romantic but turned

page 37 ▶

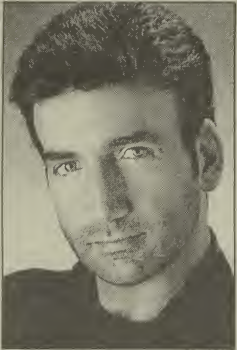
Ben Whishaw in *My Brother Tom*



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Gobi Golightly

He's lost, but he's not delirious. Openly gay contestant **Joe Gulla** is our favorite player on NBC's reality-TV show *Lost*. He was one of six total strangers who were air-dropped, totally clueless as to where in the world they were, into the desert landscape of Mongolia — yikes! The object of the game was to be the first team of two partners to make it back alive to the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.



Gay *Lost* contestant Joe Gulla

Now Gulla lives in San Jose (hmm, is that in Inner or Outer Mongolia?) and is still gay. A theatre guy, he played Joey, the gay brother, in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* for a good long run at the Cable Car Theatre. So you have to figure he was up to the challenge presented by *Lost*, although Out There does wonder: whom do you call for good take-out Chinese food in Mongolia?

OT chatted by phone with Joe after watching last week's *Lost*. We told him we wouldn't have been able to deal with having a camera in our faces when we desperately needed a shower in Ulanbaatar! But Joe seemed to be a good sport about the whole ordeal. Of course, it probably helped that his partner was one juicy **Courtland**, accurately described in the show's breathless voiceover as a "sensitive hardbody from Boston."

"I know, what a gay fantasy, sharing a tent in the middle of nowhere with some hot guy. But there was never any sexual tension



Someone had his rainbow flag panties in a twist last week.

between us, and besides, I have a boyfriend," Joe assured us. "Look, he's a really cute guy, he helped me out a lot in the desert by carrying some of my stuff. But in the long run, it's true what they say, beauty really is skin-deep."

So did Joe and his humpy, olive-skinned partner really get halfway around the world on a couple of hundred dollars?

"A lot of people think the whole thing was set up, but no, it was real. We really were dependent on the kindness of strangers. And I would never, ever do it again!"

Who won? NBC made Joe swear on a stack of contracts he wouldn't ever tell anyone, not even his dear sainted mother, and she doesn't even have a blessed column! But if you saw last night's episode, you already know the answer.

Flagpole envy

What flagmaking **Betsy Ross** of the gay movement was hopping mad last week when the giant rainbow flag at Castro at Market was temporarily replaced during Leather Week by a huge red, white, black-and-blue leather flag? He was so mad, he was immediately on the phone with the gay press, raving about how he would "publicly humiliate" whoever was responsible. We assume that Betsy's calmed down now that the rainbow flag is flying again, since it was run back up the flagpole right after the Folsom St. Fair. But we

don't know for sure whether **Fannie Flag** has come down off his high horse, because he's at his home in the Southland, where he has been during the whole affair.

Friends in high places

A **FOT** (that's retro shorthand for Friend of Out There) who was there at Supervisor **Mark Leno's** 50th birthday party last week at the Pacific Heights home of SF Symphony Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas** and his partner **Joshua** said that the *soirée* was quite the posh occasion. *Tout SF* high society (*doyenne Denise Hale, et al.*) was in attendance. The highlight of the musical entertainment, provided by the maestro himself on his grand piano, was a specially-composed work dedicated to the birthday boy. No word on whether MTT and Joshua's beloved standard poodle, **Shana**, sang along.

Cocktail workouts

We couldn't resist the chance to get a sneak peek at **The Sports Club LA** launch in the Four Seasons hotel/condo complex soon to open on Market St. Four floors of gym and fitness facilities, plush lockers and spa, a battalion of treadmills and cyclers (with a scant two rowing machines, typical), it sure was a lot of sports club. But Out There thinks the idea of having a full bar and restaurant as part of a fitness cen-



Diva of the moment Lypsinka unpacks her hatbox in San Francisco.

ter is very wild. We enjoyed a highball in the Club Grill and thought if we changed up and jumped into our laps just then, we'd probably sink right to the bottom of the pool.

Stage sensation **John Epperson** as **Lypsinka** opened her new show in style at the Alcazar last Tuesday night, and the afterparty in her honor transpired in no less an upscale watering hole than Le Colonial, formerly Trader Vic's, the faux French Indochina plantation on Cosmo Place. Although OT had to steer past crowds of mating heterosexuals to get to the private party, we glittered and were gay once we arrived. Ever virtuous, La Lyp was drinking spring water without ice, while OT was liquoring up. Our delight of a date fell to chatting up distinguished actress **Lily Tomlin**. When complimented on being possessed of

theatrical genius, Tomlin pointed out that Epperson is also very gifted. She was right, probably in more ways than one, and this was his night.

Right takes flight

As of presstime, **Ronald Reagan** National Airport was the only aviation gateway in the country still closed in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. OT finds it oh so piquant that National happens to be the airport renamed, in a daring feat of legislative larceny, for the great GOP icon. Considering that Reagan gutted the nation's air-traffic control system by busting the union as his first act in office, there seems to be some kind of cosmic karma in operation here. Reports of the death of irony are definitely premature.

It's a rare day when gay conser-
page 31 ►

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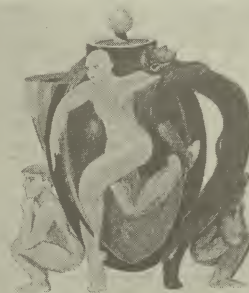
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ROSS MUNRO

Lyp shtick

Lypsinka comes unglued in 'The Boxed Set'

by Richard Dodds

Can something be a tribute and travesty at the same time? If so, *Lypsinka! The Boxed Set* is both and more.

In the pert, cinched, but cracking guise of Lypsinka, performer John Epperson clearly revels in the plastic innocence that once informed so much of mainstream entertainment. By lip-synching to an imaginatively piquant collage of sound clips from diverse showbiz sources, Epperson manages to turn a shallow art form into a hilarious and sometimes scary social commentary.

Until 1997, Epperson had been a regular visitor to Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint with a succession of Lypsinka shows. And while some of the material from *The Boxed Set* is drawn from those previous outings, the physical production at the Alcazar Theatre is far more sophisticated than what could be accomplished in the tiny confines of Josie's.

Lypsinka arrives onstage with a generic opening song once performed by a generic chanteuse, and that gives way to another perky tune that suggests we're in for a mildly wry drag act. But, without warning, from Lypsinka's mouth come three words in Ethel Merman's unmistakable bray: "Who am I?" The set is bathed in an alarming red light as a hot white spotlight zeros in on Lypsinka's stricken face.

And then, just as quickly, all returns to normal as Lypsinka offers a humorously atrocious lounge-act version of "Mame" before launching into an increasingly inebriated version of "The 12 Days of Christmas" that confirms Epperson's skills as a precise lip-syncher of even drunkenly slobbered lyrics.

But the sense of a manicured icon becoming unglued returns in



John Epperson as Lypsinka "revels in plastic innocence."

an elaborate montage of melodramatic phone calls culled from the movies, and becomes even more nightmarish as the show proceeds into moments from the musicals *Applause*, *The Apple Tree*, and *Gypsy*. Still, all the while, the Lypsinka character struggles to retain her image as the model of decorum and style once promoted as the feminine ideal.

At just over 70 minutes, even with her comically milked bows, Lypsinka knows when her time is up. Yet there is so much packed

into those 70 minutes that the show never feels undernourished. Maybe you need a gay gene to fully appreciate Lypsinka, for the reviewer in the *Chronicle* found the show too slight for his taste, but I see an artist at work at the Alcazar. ▼

Lypsinka! The Boxed Set will run at the Alcazar Theatre through Nov. 4. Tickets are \$25-\$40. Call 441-4042 or visit www.lyp-tix.com.

Out There

◀ previous page

vative oinker **Andrew Sullivan** admits he's wrong, but he apologized in print last week to *New York Times* columnist **Maureen Dowd** for casting doubt on her scoop that White House spokesperson **Ari Fleischer** and counselor **Karl Rove**'s statements that Air Force One had been targeted on Sept. 11 were, in fact, disinformation. "So we were directly lied to by two senior administrative officials," Sullivan concludes. "Were these people spinning at a time of grave national crisis? Wake up and smell your GOP heroes, Randy Andy."

In a recent column concerning the Day of Remembrance ceremonies in San Francisco, DC-dweller Sullivan got his facts wrong again — as he invariably does when writing about a city he has never understood. Sullivan identified windbag preacher **Amos Brown** as a current member of the Board of Supervisors, when of course Brown was relieved of those responsibilities by SF voters last November, a very substantial makeover.

Cast away

Plans are certainly already in the works in the luxurious bunkers of Hollywood for the TV-movie based upon the drama of last month's heinous attacks. As of

prestime, nothing is confirmed, but scuttlebutt has casting underway.

To play **President George W. Bush**: **Tom Hanks**

Terrorist kingpin **Osama bin Laden**: **Roberto Benigni**
NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**: **Vincent Gardenia**

Defense Secretary **Donald H. Rumsfeld**: **Anthony Hopkins**
Secretary of State **Colin Powell**: **Bill Cosby**

Vice President **Dick Cheney**: **Wallace Shawn**

British Prime Minister **Tony Blair**: **Martin Short**

White House spokesman **Ari Fleischer**: **Jerry Seinfeld**

Homeland Security czar **Tom Ridge**: **Dan Ackroyd** ▼

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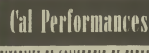


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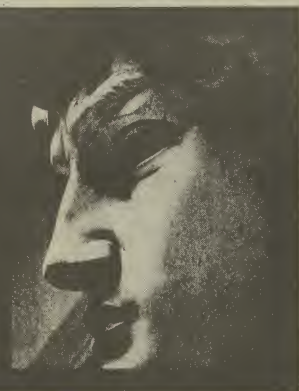
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Sabrina Matthews quacks us up

Queer comedy at the Herbst Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Lesbian comic Sabrina Matthews prefers straight comedy clubs over all-gay comedy events. "I enjoy being a person who makes them like a gay person," Matthews said of straight audiences. "But when you do a gay show, a lot of people are there because that's their main access to gay culture. They want you to be really gay."

The former San Franciscan, who got her start at an open-mike night at Josie's, is returning to perform Oct. 13 at *Queer Comedy Quack Up*, which just happens to be one of those all-gay comedy events.

But, she hastens to point out, San Francisco is an exception to the rule "because there's so much gay culture there. But that's not true of most of the country."

Matthews, who describes her anecdotal comedy style as "40 minutes of in-between song patter," will be sharing the bill at Herbst Theatre with Doug Holsclaw, Regina Stoops, Pippi Lovestocking, Windy Plains, and producer Lisa Geduldig.

That she is a lesbian is sometimes incidental to the stories she tells. "Not that I'm not out in straight rooms," Matthews said. "I

mean, if you have a photo of me, you know I'm not pulling the wool over anyone's eyes."

Matthews was talking from her home in Burbank, where she headed for career reasons four years ago after finding her comic voice in San Francisco. When she arrived in San Francisco in 1991, she never even considered that her life might be in the spotlight.

"But I've always been a real storyteller," she said. "I worked at a summer camp for a long time, and got pretty good at telling stories for the kids, and then a friend talked me into getting on-stage and telling stories at a staff tal-

ent show. And then I did another talent show in New Haven, and friends who saw me there eventually took me to Josie's. So it really started with my friends recognizing it in me."

After doing her first open-mike night at Josie's, she was asked back for a Saturday night gig — prime time — and when she actually got paid, something clicked. Within a year, she had quit her job running a daycare/homework center for kids in South San Francisco. "I hated my job," she said. "I didn't realize I was going to end up where the kids were such a mess."

Matthews' own childhood in Rye, NY, was not particularly

happy. "I didn't have any friends, and I didn't get along with my mother," she said. "I think it was mainly because I was living in a very staid town and everybody was very similar, and that really worked against me. But once I went somewhere where people wanted people to be interesting, I was golden because I was interesting."

Although she had a notion of her gay inclinations as a teen, she didn't act on them. "I very consciously thought, 'Oh, no, I don't think I'm going to welcome one more quality that makes me more of a social misfit.' But everyone who knew me then told me later that they always thought I was gay."

Since moving to Los Angeles, Matthews has landed one television appearance on *America's Most Wanted*. She played a comic in a comedy club where two lesbian bank-robbers are sharing a tender moment of farewell. "A lot of people want to get rich in television," she said, "but I just want to make enough so I can afford to do live comedy."

Matthews, currently single, hasn't made much of the social opportunities that the spotlight can bring. "I'm kind of shy," she said, "And my friends who go to shows with me say, 'Hey, that girl was hitting on you.' And my response is always, 'Really?' I haven't really taken advantage of my road-slut potential yet."



"If you have a photo of me, you know" Matthews is a lesbian.

Tickets to *Queer Comedy Quack Up* at the Herbst Theatre are \$20 and \$25. Call 392-4400.

Here's 'Jackie'

One reviewer described Jackie: *An American Life* as "satire with respect," though that respect is pretty much limited to its title character, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis. Gip Hoppe's biographical cartoon is having its Bay Area debut Oct. 5 at the Wilhows Theatre Company in Concord.

Tanya Shaffer (*Let My Enemy Live Long*) is playing Jackie, while eight other performers create nearly 100 characters from all phases of her life. Here is where the respect ends, as the Kennedy clan is seen groveling before a 20-foot puppet of patriarch Joe Kennedy, and Ethel Kennedy is depicted literally covered with babies. Also on hand are Marilyn Monroe, Truman Capote, Richard

Nixon, Frank Sinatra, and, of course, Jack Kennedy.

Jackie: An American Life opened a six-month run on Broadway in 1997, but fizzled in London the following year. They have their own royalty, after all. The run in Concord will continue through Oct. 27. Call (925) 798-1300.

'Alien' encounter

The Bay Area will get its first look at rising lesbian playwright Madeleine Olnek when a double bill of her plays opens Oct. 13 in the Studio at Theatre Rhino. The Half Baked Players are presenting Olnek's *The Jewish Nun* and *Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*.

In the 10-minute *The Jewish Nun*, Olnek offers an autobiographical account of her upbringing in Greenwich, Conn., which included a Jewish father and a

next page ►

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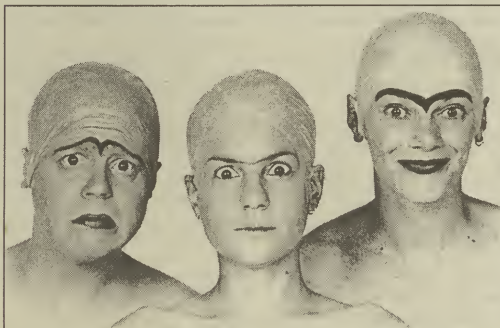
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FILM

Aging male model blues

Ben Stiller on being Derek Zoolander

by Tim Nasson

Ben Stiller has Met the Parents and found that there was Something about Mary. In the process, he has become one of the big screen's most valuable comedic assets. No big surprise, since his parents, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara, who have been married for 47 years, raised him in an entertainment-filled environment. "You'd think that I would have veered off into other territory," said Stiller in an interview promoting his latest film, *Zoolander*, in which he plays an aging yet world-famous male model. "Something much different from the spotlight in which I grew up. But here I am, married to an actress [Christine Taylor, best known for playing Marsha Brady in the *Brady Bunch* movies] who is starring in my movie. My parents, my friends and even my dog have roles in *Zoolander*, too."

Hair graying and receding, standing only 5'8" tall, 36-year-old Stiller is not the epitome of male model. He plays Derek Zoolander, 30-year-old Male Model of the Year for three years in a row.

Facing the devastating reality that he is no longer the world's #1 supermodel, Derek searches for a purpose in life and returns to his



Male Model of the Year

southern New Jersey roots to work in the coal mines with his father (Jon Voight) and brother (Vince Vaughn). When that plan falters, Derek becomes friends with his archrival, Hansel (Owen Wilson), who has admired his work ever since seeing him pose in the International Male catalogue.

"I think that the fashion industry is so over the top. Male models, female, whichever. But male models are so incredibly good-looking and have such a good sense of

humor. It's almost like they are not even human. I hung out with a few of the big ones trying to learn a little from them," Stiller said.

The plot of *Zoolander* revolves around Derek's being hypnotized by Will Ferrell's queeny Mugatu, a fashion designer intent on assassinating the Malaysian Prime Minister, who is hell-bent on doing away with child labor.

"I called in a lot of favors for this movie," said Stiller, director of two previous films, *The Cable Guy* starring Jim Carrey, and *Reality Bites* starring Winona Ryder. "I am friends with some of the people who have cameos, like Lance Bass and Lil' Kim. I was really glad to get David Bowie. He was the perfect person for the role of the referee during the catwalk contest that Derek and Hansel have."

The concept for *Zoolander* came in 1996, when Stiller did a short starring Derek for the VH-1 Fashion Awards.

"I never thought that the skit would turn into a feature-length film, but one thing led to another, and here we are."

Orgy curtailed

When *Zoolander* was originally rated R for its drug, orgy and erection scenes, Stiller cut the film so it could garner the more audience-friendly PG-13. "There is just less of the orgy and bobbing erection scenes. No scenes were completely cut out. Just parts of a couple."



Milla Jovovich, Ben Stiller, and Will Ferrell as queeny Mugatu

Stiller recounted how he called his father as a teen while tripping on acid. "My father was ready and eager to help me through the situation. I didn't think it was all that extraordinary until I got older and talked with friends whose parents were not as supportive when they were young and foolish."

In addition to being known for his look, Derek Zoolander has a unique voice. "It is a very bad Marilyn Monroe impersonation," said Stiller. "When you're a guy and not a drag queen and look nothing like Marilyn Monroe, all you can hope to do is sound like her if you try hard enough."

While *Zoolander* takes place in present-day NYC, the soundtrack is retro '80s. "It was not planned to be a retro soundtrack," explained Stiller. "The song 'Relax'

relates on a lot of different levels to my character, and the soundtrack materialized from that one song. Everything from Wham to Michael Jackson."

Next up for Stiller is a film with Drew Barrymore, and a new Disney film, *Boys Town*, in which he plays a homophobic DEA agent who is investigating the death of his brother. Thing is, he finds out that his dead brother was gay.

How about a sequel to *There's Something About Mary*, *Meet the Parents* or *Zoolander*?

"I've never done a sequel. There may be a *Meet the Fockers*. I'd love to work with Robert DeNiro again. He is a comic genius." ▼

Zoolander is in wide release.

Backstage

◀ previous page

Catholic mother. Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien spoofs 1950s sci-fi movies, lesbian potboilers, and pop psychology. John Morace is directing the double bill.

"A lot of my works are absurdist lesbian plays that look at how strange it is to be in the society when you're running so contrary to it," Olnek said in a 1999 interview.

Olnek is also the author of *Wild Nights with Emily*, which asserts that Emily Dickinson's lesbian relationship with her sister-in-law was expunged from history.

"When I was younger and wanted to be a writer with a buried sexuality," Olnek said, "I thought I'm going to be like Emily Dickinson — alone in the world, a spinster. Then it turns out she was this big lesbian."

For more information on the Olnek double bill at Theatre

Rhino, call 861-5079.

Half 'Monty'?

The touring production of *The Full Monty*, announced as part of the Best of Broadway season, has collapsed in Chicago. All stops for the show after the Windy City have been canceled, according to *Variety*.

But a spokesperson for Best of Broadway says she still expects a reconstituted *Full Monty* will be able to open as scheduled at the Curran Theatre in June 2002. The producers of the musical version of the hit movie hope to reopen with a reduced-cost, streamlined version.

Advance bookings and ticket sales fell off dramatically after the Sept. 11 attacks, and *Variety* warns that more touring shows may face a similar fate as the economic malaise infects the entire live-entertainment industry. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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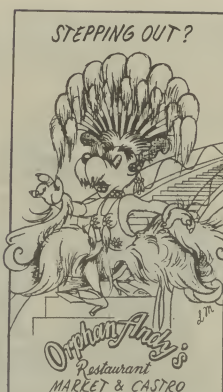
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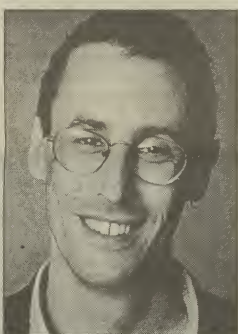
Eastenders Rep Co.'s One-Act Festival

by Richard Dodds

Don't look for any Neil Simon in Eastenders Rep Company's third annual festival of short plays. Not that artistic directors Susan E. Evans and Charles E. Polly didn't try, even if they aren't exactly Simon aficionados. After all, the new festival is titled *One Hundred & Six Years of Comedy*, and Simon certainly takes up a lot of space under that umbrella.

"We picked a piece from *The Good Doctor*," Evans said of Simon's adaptation of comic works by Anton Chekhov. "Initially we were told that Mr. Simon would never under any circumstances let his work be excerpted. But after a billion calls to Los Angeles, they finally agreed to let us do just one of the pieces, but then said they had to charge us full royalties. On top of that, Neil Simon required script approval for all the other entries in the festival."

And so there is no Simon, but had he allowed his play to be seen, his festival colleagues would have included the likes of George Bernard Shaw, Eugene Ionesco, Tom Stoppard, Georges Feydeau, Tony Kushner, Moss Hart,



Playwright Tony Kushner

Christopher Durang, Dario Fo, and Noel Coward. Not exactly slackers, they.

A total of 10 short pieces divided into three programs will be presented in rotating repertory during the festival, running Oct. 2-28 at the Eureka Theatre.

After focusing on American one-acts for the first festival and European one-acts last year, the company chose comedy for its third festival because, according to Evans, "we wanted to have an even greater outreach to the community, and comedy seems to be a good way to bring in audiences."

Following the events of Sept. 11, however, Evans acknowledged that making comedy became a challenge. "The trivial comedies are especially hard for the actors at a time like this," she said. "And we're also doing Ionesco's *Frenzy for Two, or More*, in which two people are incessantly arguing while a war is going on outside. It's just explosion after explosion after explosion. And we asked ourselves, do we want to drop the play? And we decided, no, it's really important to do this play."

Here is a look at the plays and sketches that make up *One Hundred & Six Years of Comedy*. All performances are at 8 p.m. except Sunday matinees, which begin at 3 p.m. Regular tickets are \$15, with discounts for two- and three-series packages. Call (510) 434-0734, or go to www.eastenders.org.

Series A

Mixed Doubles — Susan E. Evans directs this 1890 collaboration between Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières that farcically looks at infidelity and the pursuit of pleasure in Paris boulevard society.

Overruled — Don Speziale directs George Bernard Shaw's 1912 look at two married couples contemplating adultery at a seaside resort.

Early Mourning — Thomas Lynch and Susan E. Evans direct this Noel Coward sketch that Gertrude Lawrence originally performed in the 1923 revue *London Calling*.

Franklin D. Roosevelt to Be Inaugurated Tomorrow — Thomas Lynch directs Moss Hart's sketch from the 1933 Broadway revue *As Thousands Cheer* that imagines President and Mrs. Hoover stripping the White House bare on their last day in residence.

Series A will have performances 10/2, 5, 10, 13, 18, 21, 26.

Series B

Local Boy Makes Good — Debbie Lynn Carriger and Thomas Lynch direct a sketch written by George S. Kaufman about a reluctant diva stagehand, originally performed by Bert Lahr for the 1944 revue *Seven Lively Arts*.

Women Undressed and Bodies to Be Dispatched — Charles E. Polly directs Dario Fo's 1958 dark farce that pokes fun at such institutions as divorce and the Italian postal service.

Frenzy for Two, or More —

Susan E. Evans directs Eugene Ionesco's 1962 absurdist farce about a couple whose arguments mirror the endless revolution going on about them.

Series B will have performances 10/3, 6, 11, 14, 19, 24, 27.



Playwright Tom Stoppard

Series C

The Boundary — Kiara Downey directs Tom Stoppard and Clive Exton's 1975 TV script about two lexicographers plagued by a series of misfortunes that turns their tidy world topsy-turvy.

Medea — Charles E. Polly directs a collaboration between Christopher Durang and Wendy Wasserstein that offers their irreverent take on the Greek tragedy.

Reverse Transcription — Susan E. Evans directs Tony Kushner's short play that combines humor with musings on death, friendship, writing, and the HIV virus.

Series C will have performances 10/4, 7, 12, 17, 20, 25, 28. ▼

FILM

Bottom of the world



The *Endurance*, opening a two-week run Friday at the Castro Theatre, recounts Sir Ernest Shackleton's legendary 1914-16 expedition to Antarctica. His goal was to be the first to cross the Antarctic on foot, and claim the earth's bottom continent for Britain.

The film tells one of history's greatest tales of survival, a two-year struggle that the men went through to survive when the three-master *Endurance* was trapped in ice. The film contains Frank Hurley's stunning original film footage and photographs salvaged from the expedition, with narration by Liam Neeson. Pictured: crew member Blackborow, with Mrs. Chippy on his shoulder.

SF hosts the US premiere of *The Endurance*, as its New York date was pushed back due to recent events, as was Los Angeles. The film played to sold-out performances at the SF Int'l. Film Festival 2001, and it might just speak to our uncertain times. Director George Butler has also directed an IMAX film, *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure*, which is now playing at an IMAX theatre in San Jose. ▼

FILM

Almost famous

Lisa Picard is ready for her close-up in a new mockumentary

by Adam Sandel

Historically, Hollywood has done a lousy job of capturing what really goes on behind the scenes in its own industry. The "dream factory" that thrives on creating glossy visions of idealized lives has never been very good at examining its own underbelly.

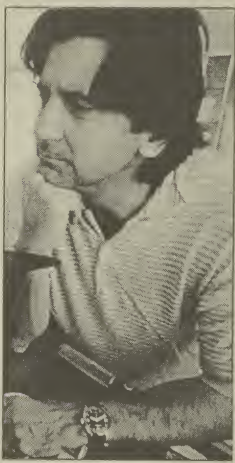
Perhaps the sole exception to this rule is Robert Altman's *The Player*, a film that satirically nails Hollywood's shallow desperation with pitch-perfect accuracy. *The Player* finally has its bookend companion piece in *Lisa Picard Is Famous*, a mockumentary about an aspiring actress, opening Friday at the Lumiere.

It comes as no surprise that this very funny and painfully true-to-life film was created by actors. Produced by actress Mira Sorvino (*Mighty Aphrodite*) and directed by actor/director Griffin Dunne (*After Hours*), the movie was written by and stars unknown actors Lisa Kirk and Nat DeWolf.

Kirk plays Lisa Picard, a fiercely determined New York actress who, after a series of minor parts and commercials, is poised for her major breakthrough "in a small but pivotal role" in a TV-movie starring Melissa Gilbert.

DeWolf plays Lisa's gay friend and fellow actor Tate Kelly, whose major credit is an ill-fated gig as an extra on *Days of Our Lives*. He's set to debut in his autobiographical Off-Off-Broadway one-man show that "deals with issues of gay bashing and homophobia," although he's had no first-hand experience with either.

The gloriously deadpan film is told through the eyes and lens of a documentary filmmaker, played by Dunne, who's trying to capture the essence of fame by following



Director Griffin Dunne plays a documentary filmmaker.

Lisa. Tossing her beret into the air à la Mary Richards, she appears to be on the brink of stardom.

Although it borrows the mockumentary style of *This Is Spinal Tap* and *Waiting for Guffman*, *Lisa Picard* ultimately goes beyond satire. By scrutinizing the lives of these desperately hungry actors in squirmingly painful light on the subject of fame.

While Hollywood typically depicts actresses as vain divas (see Catherine Zeta-Jones in *America's Sweethearts*), Kirk's performance captures more fundamental elements of an actor's pathology, including a self-absorption that runs so deep that she doesn't even know it's there.

Lisa experiences a callback audition for an Advil commercial as a desperate matter of life and death. In analyzing her character's



Unknown actors Lisa Kirk and Nat DeWolf as unknown actors Lisa and Tate in *Lisa Picard Is Famous*

motivation in the Japanese horror flick *A Nymphoid Barbarian in Dinosaurs Hell*, she's careful not to give away the film's ending, "in case it's ever released."

The underlying joke of *Lisa Picard Is Famous* is that by chronicling the unknown actress' every move, the documentary itself elevates her to a kind of unwarranted fame, while plaguing her daily

life with fame's intrusiveness.

Contributing additional irony and humor are sly interviews with the likes of Carrie Fisher and Buck Henry. Cameo performances by Sandra Bullock, Charlie Sheen, Penelope Ann Miller and Spike Lee help create the illusion of documentary reality.

While some gags, like Lisa's erotic Wheat Chex commercial, push

the limits of deadpan reality, most of the film's humor is dead-on. Tate's hilariously banal gay monologue is sure to strike a chord with anybody who's seen one too many self-revelatory one-man shows. ▼

Lisa Picard Is Famous opens Friday at the Lumiere.

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Out and out loud

Moth Wranglers, Bitch and Animal, Paris By Night and others

by Gregg Shapiro

Those who were thrilled by the Magnetic Fields' magnum opus 69 *Love Songs* will recognize the name L.D. Beghtol as one of the guest vocalists on the disc. Stephin Merritt and Claudia Ganson of Magnetic Fields get to return the favor as guest performers on *Never Mind the Context* (Magnetic), the debut disc by Beghtol and SF-based Chris Xefos' band Moth Wranglers.

Beginning with their a cappella rendition of the traditional "I Never Will Marry" (which opens with the lines: "I never will marry/I'll be no man's wife") and moving into the sweltering country swing of "Turnabout," you might think that Moth Wranglers are angling to become insurgent country's queerest duo. But by the grungy, dirge-like "Six-Page Letter," they've flown off in another direction. The acoustic folk



of "Miss Fire," the piano and vocal of "The Last Request of Mr. Ezra J—," and the oompah of the drinking song "Figure-Ground" are all indelible. Stephin Merritt's lead vocal on "Let Go, Let Me" is an essential component to this album, and the gorgeous cover of OMD's "Souvenir" proves, once again, that gay men have the best taste.

Bitch and Animal are a female duo, also based in New York City. Like Moth Wranglers, Bitch and Animal explore different musical styles on their album *Eternally*

Hard (Righteous Babe), including homo hip-hop on "Best Cock on the Block" (a ditty about dildoes) and "Scrap Metal," riot grrrl rawness on "Boy Girl Wonder," acoustic punk on "Passports," performance art on "Prayer to the Sparkly Queen Aureole" (said to be about an experience in Provincetown), and the gorgeous and surreal on "Mother's Day." Listener beware: Bitch and Animal may not be to everyone's taste, but if you're willing to expand your horizons, they might be your guides.

When I first saw Daniel Cartier, I expected him, with his shaved and tattooed head, to take the stage and rip into a queer punk rage. What I heard, a set of dazzling acoustic tunes sung in Cartier's impressive vocal range, knocked me out. I wasn't the only one impressed by Cartier's abilities, as he was signed, a few months later, to Elton John's Rocket Records label. That union was short-lived, and now Cartier

has returned with the self-released album *Wide Outside* (Jindo). The collection marks the return of a gifted singer/songwriter, as you can hear on "1981," "Storm," which features both a horn and a drum track, "Verge of Something," the poppy "Beautiful," and "Any Day."

I never thought that I'd call a Mark Eitzel album sexy in print, but *The Invisible Man* (Matador) is hot! With its subtle electronic instrumentation ("The Boy with the Hammer in the Paper Bag"), its bossa nova beats ("Bitterness"), its acoustic moments ("Can You See?"), its crooned vocals ("Proclaim Your Joy"), its hallucinogenic trips ("Christian Science Reading Room"), and its plaintive songs of hopeless romance ("Shine," "Steve I Always Knew"), *The Invisible Man* might even rank as the queer thinking person's music to make love to.

Sunset strip

East on Sunset (Coastal) by

Kevin Henry is one of those independently released CDs that I wish were on a major label. It deserves the kind of attention and push that can only be afforded by the deep pockets of a major label. An openly gay Midwestern native and current LA transplant, Henry was honored in 2000 with a Los Angeles Music Award for Best Male Singer/Songwriter. One listen to the buoyant pop of "Space," the dance rhythms of "Nothing Matters," and the programmed beats of "One of the Good Guys," and you can understand why he won.

Sarah Dougher's new album, *The Bluff* (Mr. Lady), didn't grab me immediately. It took a few listens to get through this album's veneer, but once inside, the rewards were rich. The complexities of the opening track "First Dream," "My Kingdom," "Turn Myself," "System Works," "The Homecoming," and "The Choice" recall The Walls Ablaze. The unexpectedly pleasant '50s retro pop of "Must Believe," "Wide Eyed," and "It's Raining" were the album's biggest surprises, and they show that Dougher is willing to take interesting risks with her work.

Texas-based gay singer/songwriter Christopher Wilson's *East Mall Daze* (Cattle Call) is an extremely independent effort. Wilson calls it his "long-overdue library-book-of-a-CD," meaning that after performing in a variety of bands in various parts of the country, he has finally released his own solo disc. The dozen songs are well-crafted folk-pop tunes, heavily influenced by '70s and '80s California rock, the best of which include "Calling Kerry," "How Why & When," and "Wildflower."

Also based in Texas (by way of New York) is the band Paris By Night, fronted by openly gay lead singer Jeanine Acquart. A few of the songs on their fourth album *The Last Door* (Paris Passion), "Your Element," "Not the Way," and "Turned on Me," rock with a Southwestern spirit.

No Gay History Month music review would be complete without something by a cabaret performer. On *The Here and Now* (Here), Steve Kimbrough, accompanied on piano by John Paluch, has chosen to do a few familiar standards: "You Don't Know Me," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Nice Work if You Can Get it," "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve," "The Best Is Yet To Come." But what makes this disc special is that Kimbrough also interprets songs by lesser-known artists, some of which have a strong connection to the gay community. He does lovely renditions of William Finn's "Father to Son" (from *March of the Falsettos*), Rick Crom's "One Last Prince," and Joe Kregor's "Take a Picture." ▼

Moth Wranglers' CD release party is Thurs., Oct. 11, 9:30 p.m. at The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St., SF.



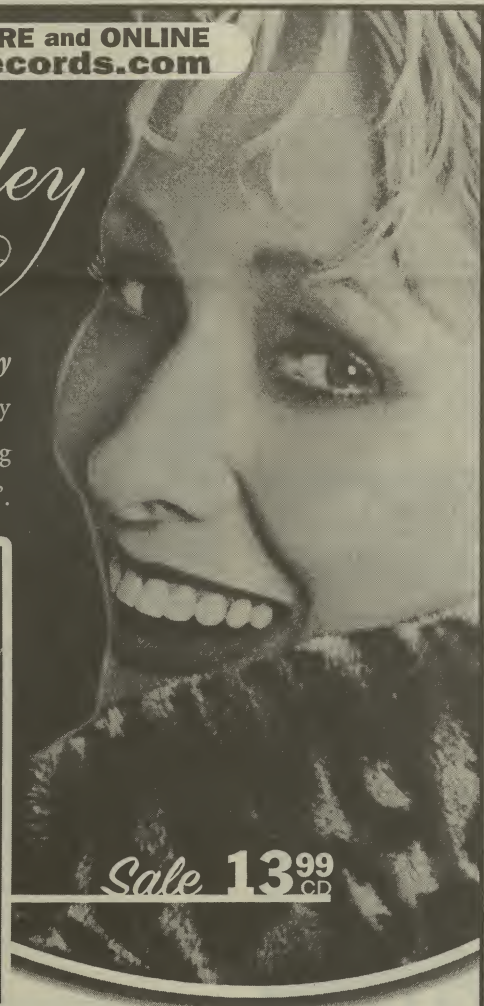
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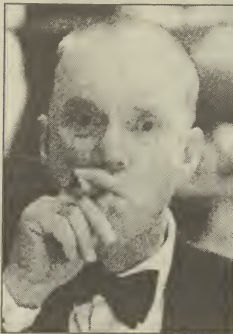
FILM

Mill Valley Fest

◀ Arts cover

out in the end to be financial.

Mick was leading a revolt of the sweaty and mostly straight lower-form boys against their effete upper-class lords and masters. Today it's impossible to imagine how outrageous and liberating lines like, "This homosexual flirtatiousness, it's so adolescent" seemed bouncing off the walls of some midtown Manhattan film palace. The Mill Valley Fest is returning to those glorious days with a Malcolm McDowell Tribute (10/11, Rafael), including the screening of Stanley Kubrick's 1973 masterpiece *A Clockwork Orange*.

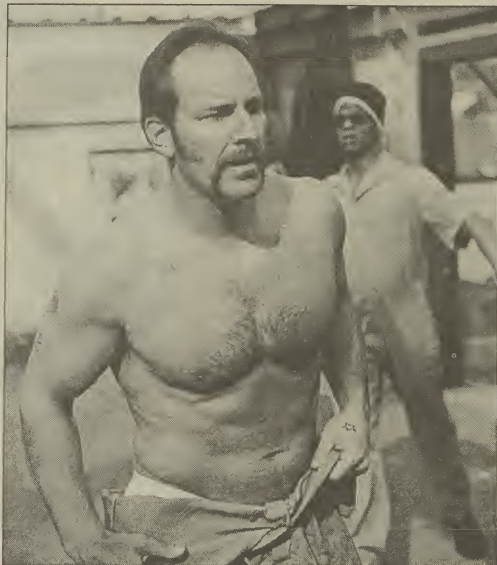
M. McDowell in *Gangster No. 1*

McDowell, now 57, will be present for the American premiere of his latest blood-soaked bone-crusher, *Gangster No. 1* (10/13, Sequoia; 10/14, Rafael). British gangsters (at least the celluloid versions) have always been a good deal nastier than their Yankee counterparts, and director Paul McGuigan's homage to a '60s London crime wave promises to give even McDowell's most infamous screen turn in the 1980 porn epic *Caligula* a run for its money. The McDowell retrospective continues at the Rafael Film Center after the Fest with *if...* (10/15), *Time After Time* (10/15) and *O Lucky Man!* (10/16).

Now imagine an Anthony LaPaglia Retrospective. Actually, the idea is not so far-fetched. Since his 1988 debut in the TV bio *Nitti* (right-hand-man to Al Capone), LaPaglia has appeared in more than two dozen films, playing hoods, cops, priests and record-store clerks. A mainstay in ethnic B-films, LaPaglia could be from Red Hook, Brooklyn or the South Side of Chicago.

He appears in two Mill Valley films. In *The Bank* (director/writer Robert Connolly), LaPaglia, a CEO with ice water for blood, hires Jim, a reclusive math wizard, to try and outguess the worldwide financial markets. The result is a sinister chess game that in these nervous times looks suspiciously like corporate financial terrorism. LaPaglia's Simon purrs that he doesn't trust anyone, boasts he can close a branch office with the twitch of an eyebrow, and makes an offer that can't be refused. This roller coaster ride may prompt you to cash out your 401K. (10/13-14, Sequoia)

In *Lantana* (from screenwriter Andrew Bovell's play, *Speaking in Tongues*), LaPaglia is a cop who uncovers clues to the disintegration of his marriage while investigating the disappearance of a local psychiatrist. Leon is an emotionally used-up shell of a man who's a little too good at his job. There's a chilling moment in *Lantana* when Leon busts in on a gay man who's having an affair with a married guy. LaPaglia's sexy swine manages to outshine a peerless ensemble cast with Barbara Hershey and Ge-

Clint Jordan is fresh out of the prison yard in *Virgil Bliss*.

offrey Rush. (10/14, Sequoia)

Bird-watching

Late Night Shopping is a hip Scottish comedy about a quartet of all-night workers whose coffee consumption could make a significant dent on the GNP of Brazil, whose love lives are on terminal life support, and whose wisecracks are funny without subtitles. The humor is more early Bill Forsyth (*That Sinking Feeling*) than late Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*), with the best gags arising from genial cluelessness rather than outright malice. The lead cutie measures the soap in his flat to see if his girlfriend's still living there, and gets his romantic advice from a guy who makes his "birds" sign a contract that they'll only have sex three times before breaking up. (10/9 & 13, Sequoia)

Mill Valley's reputation for excellent kids' films gets a boost with *There's Only One Jimmy Grimble*, a fantasy in which wannabe soccer star Jimmy (Lewis McKenzie) gets a jolt of self-confidence from a seemingly magical pair of running shoes to help him make incredibly long goals and avoid the anti-social louts that inhabit British movies of this sort. (10/14, Sequoia)

Known for its annual crop of new American indies, Mill Valley gives us the funny and bold *Big Bad Love*, a first film from actor Arliss Howard, starring Howard and wife Debra Winger. Howard's boozey writer papers his bathroom with rejection letters, barely remembers to feed a mangy yellow dog, and drives his Mississippi mama, ex-wife and kids crazy wondering if he'll return home alive from his latest round of bar-hopping. Based on the stories of writer Larry Brown, *Big Bad Love* takes the oxymoron out of literary film, shows us a poetically Dadaist view of life, and, as a screening room buddy sighed, makes Rosanna Arquette look for a few sultry moments like Sophia Loren. (10/8 & 9, Rafael)

Virgil Bliss kicks off with a long pre-credit sequence showing our hero getting out of prison after 12 years at Riker's Island. At first you're not sure he'll make it out the door, and then you haven't a clue as to what might come next. Part *Fat City* (John Huston at his grittiest) and part early Casavetes, *Virgil Bliss* is director/writer Joe Maggio's film poem to a mad and dark side of life. (10/6 & 7, Rafael)

A tribute honors actor William Macy for his passionate and often wildly funny film roles. In *Fargo*,

he's a weasel of a car salesman who meets his own dark side with a pitiful primal yelp. In *A Civil Action*, he's the lawyer who hocks his house and gold coins to finance John Travolta's quixotic crusade for justice. In *Boogie Nights*, he's the hanger-on who lets the excesses of the '70s porn world get to him. (10/9, Rafael)

Docs in the house

Mill Valley was an early festival to spotlight feature-length documentaries. *E-dreams* recalls the wild excesses and fateful days of reckoning for thousands of dot-com paper millionaires whose

Kozmo.com founder Joseph Park and delivery squad in *E-dreams*

hopes crashed along with the April 2001 NASDAQ index. Korean-American Joseph Park's immigrant parents run a chain of Philadelphia laundromats. Park thought he could be successful by catering to his generation's reluctance to leave the house. Kozmo.com consisted of an army of bike messengers who would deliver anything to your door (from a movie to a *Snickers* bar) within an hour, sans delivery fee. In the early days of the company, Park rode a bike himself (until he was side-swiped by a New York cab), and planned every detail of Kozmo's website and marketing strategy. *E-dreams*' most poignant moments come as Park and friends are spending a day sailing against the backdrop of the picturesque skyline of lower Manhattan. (10/13 & 14, Rafael)

Rudyland takes a biting and nostalgic look at New Yorkers' love/hate relationship with their uniquely hands-on mayor. As one

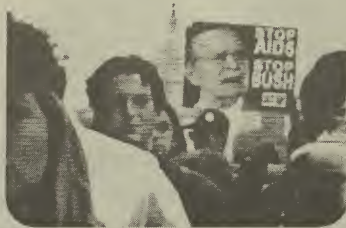
critic notes, for better or worse, everything is personal with Mayor Rudy Giuliani. (10/11, Sequoia)

Animal Attraction explores the notion that some people can indeed talk with their animals. Meet birds who guard Kennedy Airport (*Birdman of JFK*), a cat who doubles as an architect, and llamas with personalities many of us could envy. *Animal Attraction* is also one of the most discreetly gay films at the festival. (10/7, Sequoia)

In *Spoils of War*, David Blaustein spotlights the story of the children kidnapped under the Argentine military dictatorship of the '70s, and the efforts of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo to track down their missing grandchildren. (10/7 & 12, Rafael)

In Alexander Zeldovich's *Moscow*, a saucy joke about minks fucking kicks off a tale of corruption and wild excess under today's Russian crime syndicate. (10/13, Sequoia). ▼

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Tragic canary

Maria Callas sings again in new biography

by Tavo Amador

Since her 1977 death, Maria Callas has become a cottage industry. Virtually every note she recorded and every pirated performance has been issued on compact disc. Terrence McNally recreated her in the highly fictional *Master Class*. Books have appeared with the regularity of opening nights at La Scala. The latest is Anne Edwards' *Maria Callas, An Intimate Biography* (St. Martin's Press, \$27.95.)

Edwards writes to refute

Nicholas Gage's allegations in *Greek Fire* that Callas had a son by her lover, Aristotle Onassis, the boy dying shortly after birth. Gage cites Callas' private papers as proof. Edwards provides no sources, arguing instead that Callas could not have been pregnant when Gage says she was. Both find support in an interview Callas gave a journalist. Gage claims that Callas, her figure hidden by a caftan, talked about her desire for a child — in effect, announcing another phase of her life — motherhood. Edwards, however, doubts the reporter could have

been ignorant of Callas' condition.

Who's right? Gage says Callas became pregnant in August, 1959. She made two appearances in Dallas in November, then did not sing publicly until August, 1960 — the longest break she had taken since becoming an international star. Pregnancy is one explanation, but vocal problems or spending more time with Onassis are others. Until the papers Gage refers to are made public, the truth will not be known.

Despite not meeting her objective, Edwards' book is worth reading. She writes sympathetically but not uncritically of Callas, providing fresh insights into the familiar story of Callas' unhappy childhood as an overweight prodigy pushed towards operatic stardom by her relentless mother; and her transformation into a beautiful diva, becoming the most electrifying and famous soprano of the century, one whose voice collapsed early, and who fell in love with Greek billionaire Onassis.

Litza luck

Born (1923) in New York City to immigrant Greek parents, Callas moved with her mother and older sister Jackie to Athens in 1936. Her pharmacist father remained in America, providing as best he could for his family during the Depression and the Nazi occupation of Greece. But his earnings were never enough for his wife, Evangelia ("Litza"). Edwards' portrayal of the ruthless Litza is perhaps the most damning that has yet been written. Among other things, Litza prostituted the hapless Jackie to finance her goals. Edwards proves that Callas, often criticized for her treatment of Litza, was a dutiful, if far from affectionate daughter.

Callas received training in Athens, first from Maria Trivella at the National Conservatory, then from retired Spanish sopra-



Cecil Beaton/Camera Press/Retna

From ugly duckling to glamorous diva: Callas

no Elvira de Hidalgo. Although Callas' nearly three-octave range extended to coloratura territory, Trivella believed she was a mezzo, a suggestion de Hidalgo rejected. Hidalgo, whose own upper register soured young and who retired from the stage at 41, had been a celebrated bel canto soprano. She was impressed by both the size and agility of her student's voice. Did Callas, under Hidalgo's tutelage, push her instrument too hard, singing inappropriate roles or parts too heavy for her age, like Wagner's Isolde and Brunhilde, before establishing herself as a bel canto artist in Bellini's *I Puritani*? Certainly, Callas worked at an extraordinary pace, always rehearsing in full voice. Edwards doesn't offer an opinion as to the contribution these factors made to the vocal problems which afflicted Callas by the late '50s, ending her career in the mid-'60s. Nor does she speculate on whether her weight loss had an impact on "The Voice," as Callas referred to it.

Edwards excels in describing Callas' remarkable ability to combine music and drama to create unforgettable characterizations. She also unearths good, if often unsubstantiated gossip. She suggests that Callas' husband, Battista Meneghini, may have been gay or bisexual, reports society columnist Elsa Maxwell's unrequited love for the soprano, and gives a new take on the diva's relationship with openly homosexual film director Luchino Visconti, who directed some of her greatest successes at La Scala, notably *La Traviata* and *Le Vestale*. She became infatuated with the aristocratic Visconti and was shocked to learn he was gay. When Callas dis-

covered his affair with Leonard Bernstein, who had conducted her triumphant *Medea*, she grew jealous, once screaming, "Don't you leave with that homosexual!" She also discusses Callas' friendship with Pier Paolo Pasolini, the openly gay filmmaker, who directed her in a non-operatic movie of *Medea*. Despite her inexperience in that medium, Callas' instincts told her Pasolini's approach lacked drama. She was right, and the film was at best a *success d'estime*.

Edwards chronicles Onassis' infatuation with Callas, his "canary," for whom he would not divorce his wife, Tina, who ultimately divorced him; his affair with Lee Radziwell before marrying her sister, the widowed Jacqueline Kennedy; and his tragic life following the death of his only son, Alexander. These were also desperately sad years for Callas. Her relationship with Onassis resumed after his disastrous second marriage, but it was not the same. Her voice was gone, and after Onassis' death she became a victim of the unscrupulous Vasso Devitzi, who later claimed to be executor of her will and, amazingly, succeeded in the impersonation. The result was that Callas' former husband and mother, both of whom she detested, became major beneficiaries of her substantial estate. Devitzi received over \$1 million.

Callas redefined opera and at her best was an unrivaled singing actress. She worked very hard for many years, and her tragic life has been thoroughly documented. Her operatic legacy is unequalled. Let's hope that biographers will leave her in peace. She has certainly earned it. ▼

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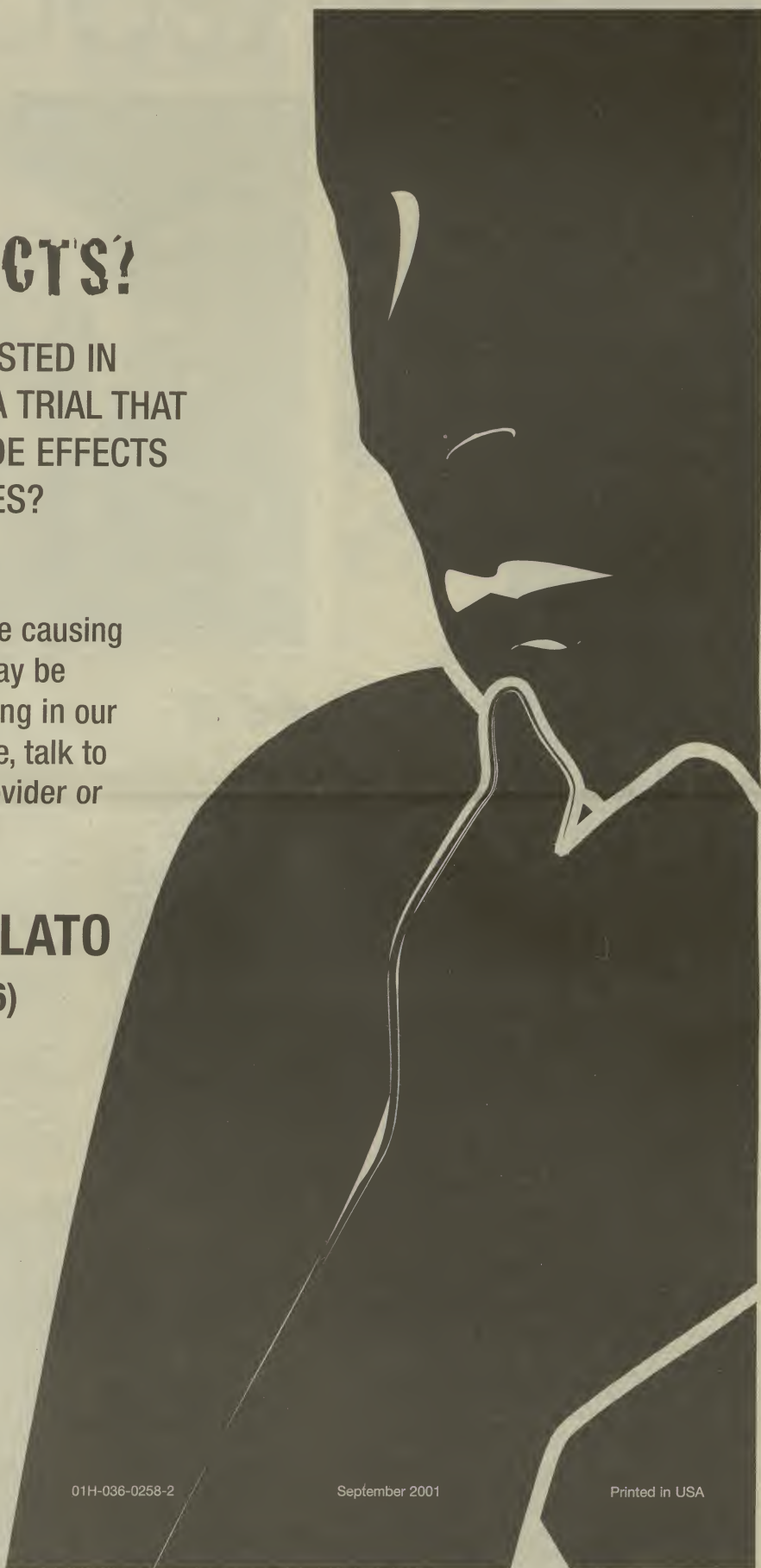
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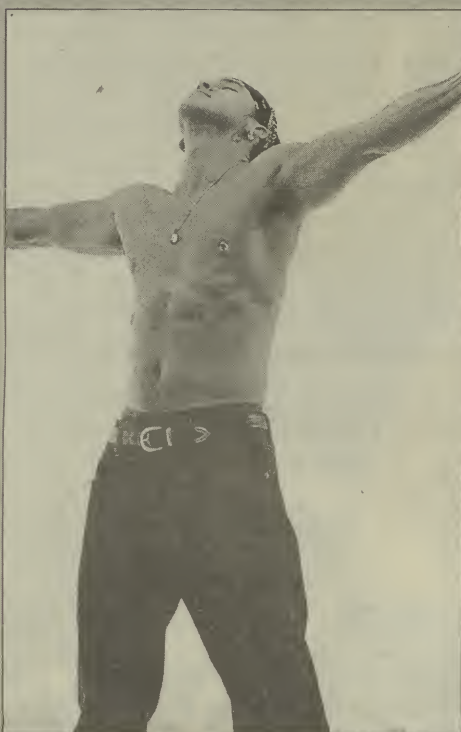
September 2001

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Latin singing sensation Gerardo performs at the Castro Street Fair

Castro Street Fair rocks!

This Sunday's Castro Street Fair boasts an invigorating blend of home-grown performance talent on the Main Stage. One of the warm-up acts, which always can be trusted to get an audience's blood flowing, is **Cheer San Francisco**, who at 11:15 a.m. perform feats of dare-devility and balancing that would make a football team cream their pants.

At 12:15 p.m., **Naked Men Singing** strut out, dangling hit musical theater songs before an appreciative gay crowd. The guys are endowed with mighty potent vocal chords.

Country western singer **Doug Stephens** comes out at 12:30 p.m., when you can expect to see a sea of Stetsons bobbing in the crowd. Stephens is a huge favorite with the local gay-caballero set.

Blackherri comes next, at 12:50 p.m. playing guitar and singing for devoted fans, followed by the amazing **Tuck and Roll Players**, a musical theatre troupe with queer rock 'n' roll sensibilities, brilliant musicianship, and acute drag sense. Then singer/songwriter **Judea Eden** takes the state at 1:45 p.m., followed at 2 p.m. by the women's band **Wild Mango**.

My favorite musician, **Garren Benfield**, performs at 2:30 p.m. He dazzles everyone with his vocal, guitar, and songwriting prowess. He just finished touring the west coast, from Seattle to LA, and is still settling in back at home with his photo-artist lover Joshua Smith.

Marin County singer/songwriter **Bonnie Hayes** and band take the stage at 2:55 p.m. She's a pro whose songs have been covered by Cher, Robert Cray, Huey Lewis, Bonnie Raitt, David Crosby, Adam Ant, Booker T and the MGs, and others of that ilk.

Two hot queercore acts round out the Main Stage line-up, with **Pansy Division** on at 3:40 p.m., still a leader in the revolutionary rock form that helped shape GLBT pop culture at the turn of the millennium. Then comes **Sparrow's Point** at 4:25 p.m., kicking butt with testosterone rock consisting of mighty metal sounds, thunderous beats, and raw muscle. It's guaranteed to shake out any terrorist blues you might be feeling.

Elsewhere at the fair you'll find the **Latin Stage**, co-hosted by Aguilas and Elbow Grease, hosted by **Telemundo's Monica Mesones**. The stage offers non-stop dance music, with a special appearance by Latin singing sensation **Gerardo** ("Rico Suave"), who will perform his hit song "Sigo Siendo Rico" and other hot numbers. Spinning Ritmo Latino at the stage will be **DJ Salvador**. ▼



Mitcho shows his stuff for Open Studios. See Saturday.

Fri 5

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIIRspace Artist-in-Residence Miriam Kronberg presents a work-in-progress reading of *EDGE*, a full-length play in two acts, featuring actors Maryann Brooks, A.J. Davenport, Lisa Lorenz, and Saun-Toy Trotter. When an early-morning disaster traps two teenage girls and their mothers in an apartment, secrets and dreams that would have remained hidden for years are forced to the light. The play examines the survival strategies of teenagers and women on the borderlines of patriarchal, capitalist society. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402.

Escape from New York Pizza (downtown)

"Poetry & Pizza" presents acclaimed writers Justin Chin (*Bite Hard; Mongrel; Harmless Medicine*) and Glenn Ingersoll (*City Walks*) in a special benefit on behalf of the Pacific Center, Berkeley's principal LGBTQ community service center. Both Chin and Ingersoll have published widely in anthologies, and Chin is known equally well as a performance artist. \$5 donation (the pizza is free!). 7:30pm. 333 Bush St. (at Montgomery St.). Info: www.poetryandpizza.homestead.com

New College

"Queerup" central meeting place for Friday. Lunch served in nearby Dolores Park. Workshops will be taking place here and at other locations throughout the Bay Area through Monday, Oct. 8. Other performances, screenings and social events take place at New College, Brava Theater, Media Alliance, the East Gay Cafe Warehouse, SPAZ warehouse, and elsewhere. For a complete listing of "Queerup" offerings, visit the Web at queerup.org, or phone (510) 704-8323.

Clarion Music Center

Live recording session: "Matt & Patti 3," a new world-music trio comprised of members of Ancient Future, the large chamber ensemble established in 1978 by musicians at the Ali Akbar College of Music. Featuring master musicians Matthew Montfort (scaloped fretboard guitar), Patti Weiss (violin), and Arshad Syed (tabla) of Ancient Future \$15. 8pm. 816 Sacramento St. (at Grant). Info: 391-1317; www.ancient-future.com

The LAB

Opening reception: a site-specific installation by Amy Rathbone in the Foyer Gallery. Known for her extensive body of drawings on paper, Rathbone responds to the play of light, inconsistencies of walls and structural surfaces by accentuating or mimicking them. Free. 6-8pm. Plus "Here Today: Performances from the Past, Present & Future of The Inter Arts Center," two nights (Oct. 5 & 6) of scintillating performance featuring students, alumni and faculty of SFSU's Inter Arts Center. \$5-\$100 sliding. 9pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855.

Belcher Artists Open Studios

Opening reception: Peruse the latest works of the artists who work and exhibit in this fabulous space in the heart of Duboce Triangle. Featuring paintings and sculpture by Brandon Fernandez, Sandra Yagi, Peter Howells, Rebecca Szeto, Charles Stinson, Julie Alland, Tim Gaskin, JoAnn Johnson Deal, and Trevor Southey. Curated by David Ortega. Free. 6-9pm. Also open to the public During Open Studios, Oct. 6-7, 11am-6pm. 69 Belcher St. (near Church & Market). Info: 626-8349; www.belcher-artists.com

Sat 6

Russian River Resort, Guerneville

Miles P. Howard hosts "Comedy Night," with a special Columbus Day Weekend appearance by the hilarious, gorgeous Scott Silverman. \$5. 9pm. Take Hwy. 101 north through Santa Rosa to the River Road/Guerneville exit (do not take the Guerneville Road exit or you'll end up in a shopping center). In Guerneville, turn right at Armstrong Woods Road. Go two blocks to 4th St. and turn left. Drive another two blocks and look for the big red neon sign "RRR." Info: (800) 4-1-RESORT; (707) 869-0691; www.russianriverresort.com

Mitcho's Open Studio

Join local queer artist and all-around good guy Mitcho for a weekend of mixed media, paintings, erotic ceramic ware, magic, queer politics, and fabulous shoes. Mitcho will unveil his newest work, "Laytona in the Castro." Free (buy some art). 11am-6pm Oct. 6 & 7. 192 Noe St. (at 15th St.). Info: 621-2855.

Pier 3, Embarcadero

Climb aboard a permanently docked ferryboat for "Guys 'R Dolls," a night of female impersonation featuring the world-famous Finocchio cast, including the debonair Brian Keith. Laughter and illusion abound, along with new costumes and scenery. Says Keith: "The room is elegant, the stage is beautiful, the liquor is affordable, and the 'girls' are still cheap (in a good way!)." \$39.95. 8pm & 10pm every Fri. & Sat. 21+ w/ID. Free parking. Info: 551-9785.

San Francisco Zoo

Ivan Cano Productions presents "Gay-Day at the Zoo," a first-ever gay event and fundraiser to benefit the SF Zoological Society. Spend the day at the zoo from 10am-5pm, then party at a Tea Dance in the Lion House from 5-11:30pm, featuring a state-of-the-art light and sound system and vibes by DJ Don Bishop of Palm Springs. Honorary co-chairs are Supervisor Mark Leno and Donna Sachet. Those attending are asked to show their support by wearing red. Zoo admission: \$8 (\$4.50 seniors/youth) residents; \$10 (\$7 seniors/youth) non-residents. Tea Dance admission: \$30 adv.; \$35 door. Sloat Blvd. (at the Pacific Ocean). Tix at BodyBodyWear, 535 Castro St. Info: www.gaydaysfzoo

California Palace of the Legion of Honor

Opening: "Artists' Books in the Modern Era 1870-2000: The Reva and David Logan Collection of Illustrated Books," a comprehensive survey of late 19th and 20th-century masterworks, featuring original, limited-edition books with illustrations by major European, Russian, American and Mexican Artists, including Edouard Manet, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, Max Beckman, Vassily Kandinsky, Natalia Goncharova, David Hockney, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Ed Ruscha, and Francisco Clemente. These 400 volumes are examples of exquisite craftsmanship. \$8 (\$6 seniors; \$5 youth). Free every Tuesday. 9:30am-5pm. Info: 863-3330; www.thinker.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"Queerup" central meeting place for Saturday. Lunch served 1-4pm. From 2-4pm, a forum led by Checkers will address "Intersecting Communities: Being a LGBTQ...and a Person of Color." For a complete listing of "Queerup" offerings, visit the Web at queerup.org, or phone (510) 704-8323

Sun 7

East-Gay Cafe Warehouse, Oakland

"Queerup" central meeting place for Sunday, 12 noon-4pm. This queer networking cafe serves vegan cuisine. Bring utensils to eat with and eat on. Donations much appreciated. Located in the glamorous heart of Oakland, 1137 32nd St. (at Adeline), about a 15-minute walk southwest of MacArthur BART station.

40th St. Warehouse, Oakland

"Queerup" presents "A Night of Amplified Music and Loudly Spoken Words plus Art Show." Featuring Daphne Gottlieb and Thea Hillman, and the bands Running Ragged, Nick Name and the Normals, and Mutilated Manikins. Donations appreciated. 8-10pm. 379 40th St. (five blocks east of MacArthur BART, located between Schaefer and Opel, near Broadway).

Club Six

"Undergroove," the after-Castro Street Fair happening. Upstairs: DJ Monkeyboog, stimulating psychovisuals, and plush sofas. Downstairs: DJs Jeff Chandler (Reform Skool) and Discovery. \$8. 6pm-2:30am. 60 Sixth St.

First Congregational Church, Berkeley

"The Soul of Rumi," featuring renowned poet Coleman Barks performing his new translations of 13th century Persian mystic & ecstatic poet Rumi. With live music featuring Stephen Kent on didjeridu, Geoffrey Gordon on tablas, dholak & vocals, Bruce Hamm on sarod, Jai Uttal on vocals & harmonium, and Marcus Wise on tablas. \$12 adv.; \$15 door. 7pm. 2345 Channing Way (at Dana), Berkeley.



Andy Van and Cheyne Coates of Madison Avenue perform at The Usual Nightclub in San Jose. See Wednesday.

Mon 8

HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute class begins: "Beginning Acoustic Guitar" with Elizabeth Fitzpatrick. Students supply their own guitars; Fitzpatrick imparts the techniques for making beautiful music. \$150. 8 Mondays (Oct 8-Dec 3; not Nov. 5). 7:30-9:30pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

Tue 9

Intersection for the Arts

Intersection presents "The Hybrid Project: Who Are You?" A series of public pursuits, live jam sessions, performances and discussions with the goal of creating a truly new form of artistic expression. Join a room full of DJs, dancers, actors, writers, musicians grappling with the fundamental questions, exchanging perspectives, speaking their unique languages, sharing rhythms, and reaching for what is beyond difference. Pay what you can. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-3311.

HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute classes begin: "Spanish for Queer Travelers 101" with Rosalinda del Moral (5 Tuesdays; Oct. 9-Nov. 6; 7-9pm; \$115); "Queer Shakespeare" with Heather Findlay (7 Tuesdays; Oct. 9-Nov. 27; 7-9pm; \$135); "Conversation and Creative Writing in Spanish" with Max Ehrsam (6 Tuesdays; Oct. 9-Nov. 13, 7-9pm; \$125); and "Grammar and Copyediting" with Charles Purdy (5 Tuesdays; Oct. 9-Nov. 13, 7-9pm; \$125). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org



"The Martyr," 2001, oil on canvas, by Sandra Yagi, part of Belcher Artists Open Studios. See Friday.

Wed 10

The LAB

Panel discussion: Los Cybrids present "High Sweat Tech Shop," in which sassy artists, writers, and community organizers discuss the digital divide, where assembly-line workers from Santa Clara are as interchangeable and disposable as those in Guadalajara or Jakarta. Free. 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 854-8855.

City Lights Booksellers

Kevin Killian, one of our local novelist/playwright/poet heroes and a giant roar amid the cackling hens of the local arts-and-letters scene, reads from his latest, *Argento Series*. To know Killian's work is to dive deep into the shadowy soul of the SF queer-lit scene. Free. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave. Info: 362-8193.

The Usual Nightclub, San Jose

The Watergarden presents the Australian group Madison Avenue live on stage at "Unique," singing their hits "Don't Call Me Baby" and "Who the Hell Are You?" Experience two dance floors under the influence of rad DJs Jay-R and Chago. Celebrate the 1-year anniversary of *Point* newspaper. \$10. 9:30pm-2am. 21+w/ID. 400 S. 1st St., San Jose. Info: (408) 535-8677; www.papipresents.com

Thu 11

Castro theatre

Frameline presents "Come Out! Come Out!," special screenings of six short films to benefit Frameline's youth outreach efforts: *Coming to Terms*, directed by Shawn Postoff; *Billy Turner's Secret*; 4 PM, directed by Sam Backhurst; *Dear Emily*, directed by Katherine Brooks; *The Chosen Family*, directed by Maureen Bradley; and *Boychick*, by Glenn Gaylord. \$8. 7pm

& 9:20pm. Castro at Market St. Tix: 703-8656.

Theater Artaud

Call to action: The street comes alive with the sounds and sights of aerial artists, dancers, drummers, musicians, poets, street puppets and much fanfare in "Harvest," a special benefit street performance to aid financially strapped Theater Artaud in continuing its mission of providing emerging and established experimental artists with live/work space, technical assistance, and consulting. Performers include Jade Eclipse, Robert Moses Kin, Paul Dresher, Culture Shock, Dance Brigade, Jose Navarrete, Kim Epifano, Destiny Youth Performance Co., and many others. Free (donations appreciated to help retire a \$45,000 debt). 6-11pm. Florida St. (btwn 17th & Mariposa). Info: 364-1420; www.theaterartaud.org

The Eagle Tavern

CD release party: "Never Mind the Context" by Moth Wranglers, a bi-coastal musical collaboration between Chris Xefos of SF and LD Beghtol of NYC. The album, on the Magnetic label, features contributions by a stellar line-up of rock-pop musical artists, including Victor Krummenacher, Sinombre, Alison Faith Levy, Jonathan Segel, and Stephin Merritt, among many others (Krummenacher and local band Sinombre will perform live at the party). Moth Wranglers formed in 1998 to explore obscure pop histrionics and arcane instrumentation. 9:30pm. 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.mothwranglers.com; www.magneticmotorworks.com

Studio @ Rhino

Preview: The Half Baked Players perform the West coast premiere of Madeleine Olnek's comedy hit, "Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same," a take on 1950s sci-fi B-movies, along with her droll, martini-dry curtain raiser, "The Jewish Nun." One of NYC's highest profile lesbian playwrights, Olnek is the winner of the Robert Chesley award for gay and lesbian playwrighting. This is her first SF production. Featuring Ginger Eckert, Nancy Maloney, and Marcus De Costa, along with Anne lobst, Sarah Moore, Desi Del Valle, and Margery Kreitman. directed by John Morace. \$15. 8:30pm Thu.-Sat.; 7:30pm Sun. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

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Open Studios

◀ Arts cover

the sense that it stems from the imagination and creativity of an openly gay man?

Part of my agenda in meeting with this well-known group of artists was to find out if the art of a group proudly proclaiming its gayness to the world demonstrates once and for all exactly what "gay aesthetic" means. I came as an empty vessel, eager to be filled with these gay artists' perceptions of the world.

Pool party

Each year for Open Studios, the members of GLAA pool their resources to put on a flashy group exhibition at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. in the Castro. This year's exhibition will present paintings, photographs, and multimedia works by Morgan, Fink, Kerry Rutz, Nikos Diaman, Tim Griffin, Kevin Dunn, Ruben Joy, Christopher Read, Paul Alley, Guy Wonder, Gregg Cassin, Rob Costin, Bruce Biada, Michael Hackett and Frank Pietronigro.

Much of their artwork presented for my perusal moved me greatly — Kerry Rutz's vivid brush-stroked figures of brutalized gay men, for instance, gorgeous in their martyrship. Some of the fare left me cold, as will happen with any diverse showing. While several of the artists concentrate on the male form, with sensuousness abounding, others break away from tradition to explore less sexually charged subjects. Some, including Bruce Biada's conceptual forms, defy categorization. The much sought-after gay aesthetic proves elusive



'Go for a Swim' by Michael Hackett: just under the surface.

among these artists — a creature too slippery and shifty to pin down.

I couldn't help noticing the lack of women artists in the GLAA — with nary an "L" in the room — and the predominance of white males. By no means does GLAA represent a cross-section of the LGBT arts community; rather, it's a highly self-selected bunch of artists who have been around for nearly 20 years, through times of plague and prosperity alike, with an ever-shifting membership base and differing energies over time. They are what they are — struggling artists — not what they could be, perhaps, or even necessarily ought to be. But when we say "gay community" in San Fran-

cisco, we have to factor in this group big-time, because they've been spearheading gay liberation from the get-go.

These men have banded together for mutual support and comradeship at a time when artists in particular are struggling. All of them have had to cope with HIV and AIDS, either directly or through friends, family, and fellow artists afflicted. Having survived, they've recently had to endure a housing crisis, with fear of eviction hanging over their heads; they feared the skyrocketing rents and chilly climate toward low-income renters. Now there's an economic downturn and the rumblings of war. Things are getting pretty dicey for artist-types here

abouts. While other artists somehow brave it alone in this climate, the GLAA has insulated itself with a cooperative spirit and much camaraderie, giving every member connections with other struggling artists, and at least one big chance a year to have their work exhibited for a large audience.

That audience appreciates subtlety and distinctiveness, and that's what they get from deaf artist Guy Wonder. He creates complex pieces that explore the colors and textures of the world from a deaf gay man's perspective. His art holds universal appeal, and he has spread his creativity far and wide, but the GLAA gives him a base of support, and he uses it wisely. Wonder regularly gives workshops for deaf people living with HIV and AIDS. With the help of GLAA, he's able to reach those in the community he most cares about.

Ripple effect

In David Fink's case, especially, the banding together with other gay artists to market to the queer populace makes good economic sense, and draws a community around him. By showing with the GLAA, he can attract art lovers to his works who might otherwise tend toward more typically "gay" subjects, such as Michael Hackett's expressionist paintings of young men in Speedos, their arms, legs and torsos stretched out just under the surface of pristine-clear swim pools, the surfaces always crackling with jagged, criss-crossing, energetic ripples.

The art people put on their walls speaks volumes about how

they identify culturally. Clearly many gay men have a taste for portraits of slim, masculine males. It's a cultural thing. We like to look at them from top to bottom, all around, inside and out. So it is no surprise that at a GLAA showing, you will find male imagery in abundance, in various states of undress. Most GLAA artists do figurative work that resonates with those who like their men realistic enough, but not perfect. Occasionally you'll find something semi-abstract, or recontextualized, or both, in the case of Gregg Cassin, one of the most promising artists of the group. Cassin utilizes Church iconography in ways never conceived by Church patriarchs, who would no doubt disapprove. All queers raised Catholic, or most any denomination, will find a certain solace in Cassin's re-imagining of religious symbolism.

Far more explicit in terms of their "queer quotient" (a sort of internal measuring of how much queerness a piece contains) are Christopher Read's shadowy photographs of naked, demure male figures, or Paul Alley's somber pastels, focusing intensely on the male form, forever offering hints of seduction, pondering the meaning of maleness, the beauty of smooth-skinned, muscled physiques. Their work, inherently appealing, oddly familiar, represents a kind of mainstreaming of the gay aesthetic. The images are tasteful, not affronting, and certainly not revolutionary. They would look chic, not daring, in any gay man's live-work loft.

More daring than these, in part because of their sheer oddity in a culture nearly suffocating from so many representations of male nudes, are images in the GLAA show that speak a new language of gay identity. Fink, for instance, has been working on a new series, portraits of fire hydrants, and while he's not quite sure if there's a market for such paintings, he can only shrug: "It's just one of those things an artist has to do. If somebody buys them, great!"

Are fire hydrants a gay theme? How can they not be, if they're depicted by a gay man? If that artist thoroughly knows himself, is at peace with himself, and has firmly determined what he wants to put out to the world, then he's entitled to produce gay art without reference to gayness. Fink doesn't bludgeon anyone with obvious meaning, or overt sexuality; he doesn't genuflect to the Church in all her tired villainy. Instead, he paints plain images of places and objects, and in so doing defies all expectations about what gay art ought to look like.

next page ▶

night/OUT
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'Yes I am Safe' by Gregg Cassin: re-imagining of religious symbolism

VIDEO

Video distraction therapy

Twelve comedies out on video, to chase the stress away

by Will Shank

Stressed out? Anxiety-ridden? There is always comfort to be found at your local video store. Herewith follows a completely subjective list of a dozen of my favorite feel-good comedies.

Pollyanna (1960) — It's not a laugh-out-loud comedy, but the story of the "glad girl" who irritates all of the curmudgeons around her in a small New England town (actually Santa Rosa) is infectiously good-natured. The Disney studio attracted top talent to this project, including stars like Karl Malden, Jane Wyman and Agnes Moorehead. See also: the original *Parent Trap*, starring Hayley Mills as twins.

It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World (1963) — The current *Rat Race* is pretty funny, but the original Stanley Kramer version of an ensemble cast chasing a hidden treasure may be the most hilarious slapstick movie ever made. Ethel Merman is turned upside down and shaken. 'Nuff said.



Cary Grant on *Holiday*

Holiday (1938) — George Cukor's sophisticated comedy has the perfect pairing of Cary Grant and Kate Hepburn as the sister of

his fiancée. It takes him a whole movie filled with witty dialogue to discover that he's with the wrong gal. Alternatives: any Cukor comedy of the '30s or '40s, such as *The Philadelphia Story* or *Adam's Rib*, both starring Hepburn.

Young Frankenstein (1974) — The late Madeline Kahn laps up her role as the doctor's lady love ("Taffeta, darling!") And Cloris Leachman releases a team of wild horses every time her sinister Frau Blücher speaks. Released the same year was Brooks' almost equally hysterical *Blazing Saddles*.

Soapdish (1991) — Casting against type worked brilliantly in this satiric view of television soaps. Sally Field is the soap queen whom everybody loves to hate, and Kevin Kline is her hapless loser of an ex-husband who reappears in her life, and her TV series, against her will. The ensemble cast includes Robert Downey Jr. as an unscrupulous young producer, as well as Cathy Moriarty, Teri Hatcher, and Elizabeth Shue.

Tootsie (1982) — The other comedy with a TV soap opera setting gave Dustin Hoffman one of his best roles ever. His Dorothy is more than a drag caricature; she is sweet and sassy and has a life of her own far from her male counterpart, who is kind of a drag himself. Teri Garr is perfectly neurotic as Hoffman's girlfriend, and Jessica Lange won an Oscar as the babe.

Some Like It Hot (1959) —

Speaking of drag, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis put on pinafores and pouts for director Billy Wilder in this perfectly pitched comedy about Chicago gangsters, with San Diego's Hotel del Coronado standing in for Miami Beach. Oh yeah, and then there's Marilyn Monroe.

Think pink

The Pink Panther (1963) — Of Peter Sellers' many achievements, his bumbling Inspector Clouseau may be his finest. Also consider renting any other Blake Edwards comedy, from the rest of the Panther series (my own personal favorite is *A Shot in the Dark*) through *Victor Victoria*. Many of them are variations on the theme of Edwards' love affair with Paris, most of which is filmed in Hollywood. See also: the underrated chase movie *The Great Race* (1965), which re-united Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon as a dastardly villain and a squeaky-clean hero.

Moonstruck (1987) — John Patrick Shanley won an Oscar for one of the wisest and funniest screenplays ever. Cher and Olympia Dukakis as an Italian-American mother and daughter in Brooklyn are touching together, in a Cinderella plot involving *malocchio* curses and falling-in-love-with-the-wrong-brother. The whole cast, under Norman Jewison's direction, is perfection, including Vincent Gardenia, Nicolas

Cage and Danny Aiello, all under the spell of "La luna, la bella luna!"

Alice (1990) — Of the entire Woody Allen oeuvre, this may be his most delightful achievement. Mia Farrow plays a wealthy Manhattanite whose empty marriage to a philandering husband (William Hurt) leads her to seek alternatives through the looking-glass of a mysterious wise man in Chinatown. Her seduction scene with unlikely lover Joe Mantegna while she is an altered state ("What kind of reed do you blow, Joe?" she coos) may represent the pinnacle of Farrow's long and brilliant career. Other choices for life-affirming comedies: *Radio Days* and *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

Waiting for Guffman (1997) — While it totters dangerously close to elitist condescension, Christopher Guest's Guffman takes a hilarious look at the cluelessness of Middle America in a way that Altman's *Nashville* did not. Some may find *Springtime for Hitler* the best fictitious musical ever, but give me *Red, White and Blaine!* A close second choice: the same cast in *Best of Show*.

Superstar (1999) — Okay, it may not be for everybody, but fans of *Saturday Night Live* can't get enough of Molly Shannon as the bi-polar Catholic schoolgirl Mary Katherine Gallagher, and the feature-film version of her fantasies, which includes a lot of tree-kissing, holds up almost all the way through. ▼

Open Studios

◀ previous page

While it's impossible to describe all the art presented by the GLAA, it's impossible not to mention the highly voluble, intensely brainy conceptual/interdisciplinary artist Frank Pietronigro, who says a lot of his work "has to do with the body in relationship to technology." In person, Pietronigro has a way of gently but insistently pushing his gayness into people's faces; his art amply reflects his overt gay sensibility. He has taken his quirky, queer outlook on life into the oddest places,

including the time he danced and painted in near zero-gravity, courtesy of NASA. He got a grant that allowed him to go up in a NASA KC135 Turbojet, which flew a precise parabola, creating a weightlessness that let Pietronigro do "drift paintings" within a large plastic enclosure in the plane's cargo space. The "canvas" for this work was his own white painter's suit, plus the plastic interior. It all came out a colorful mess. To queer it up, in typical Pietronigro fashion, the artist whipped out two lengths of colorful scarves and did a graceful "fan" dance, proving that gay art knows no earthly bounds. ▼

Art inside-out

ArtSpan's 26th San Francisco Open Studios

by Mark Mardon

To get gallery time these days is a near miracle for most artists. Galleries are crammed full of the cream of the established crop and the up-and-coming picks of gallery owners. Even first-tier artists are having a tough time garnering sales these days; for those who work primarily out of their homes, committing to art means constantly struggling to get work shown, much less sold.

ArtSpan's Open Studios, now in its 26th year, is a godsend for San Francisco artists who remain mostly out of sight and mind the rest of the year. The city-wide event kicks off October 6-7 in the Castro, Duboce, Mission, Noe Valley, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and Eureka Valley neighborhoods. To participate, as exhibitor or spectator, is to become immersed in a community ritual where everyone gets out and about on four successive weekends, walking the streets from studio to studio, meeting other art-lovers and neighbors, peering into private abodes turned public showrooms, and enjoying the satisfaction of buying paintings, pottery, prints, watercolors and the like directly from those who conceive and execute them. The experience is uniquely San Franciscan, as are the works you'll collect in your weekend forays.

An extensive guide, depicting one of each participating artist's works, can be found in cafes and bookshops around town, free of charge. To discover where the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual artists are, simply use your imagination. Where are we concentrated? Go there, and there you'll find gay treasure. ▼

For details about ArtSpan's SF Open Studios 2001, phone (415) 646-0959, or go to www.sfpopenstudios.com.

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One of America's great women of song, Rosemary Clooney is "an icon of classical pop and jazz" (*The New York Times*) who scored her first hit 50 years ago with "Come On a My House," and has since been immortalized in scores of recordings and films, including the 1954 Bing Crosby classic *White Christmas*. *The New York Times* recently called her "mellow as mature wine... She brings a naturalness and unpretentious personal honesty to whatever she sings." Sharing the bill is Paula West, a Bay Area singer of "mischievous sexiness and keen musical intelligence" (*The New York Times*).

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Meet the 2001 California Leatherman Contest winners (from left): "Trev," Kevin Casey (the winner), and Glennon Sutter, the first runner-up. Casey, who comes from LA, will compete for the American Leatherman 2002 title next April in Washington, D.C.

SF Leather Pride Week 2001 in review

We were a hit!

by Mister Marcus

For more than seven days, leather pilgrims from all over the United States, Europe, Canada and even Australia immersed themselves in San Francisco's 2001 Leather Pride Week. The masses enjoyed parties galore, gave generously at benefits, cheered on a contest and, best of all, poured into the Folsom Street Fair, which celebrated its 18th birthday last Sunday.

A brilliant sun pushed the temperature up to over 95 degrees during the fair, giving photographers a field day in their quest to capture "skin" for posterity.

On the 12th Street stage, Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport introduced almost 50 current ti-

tleholders from all over the world, including Int'l Mr. Leather Stefan Muller, Int'l Ms. Leather Joni Perri, Int'l Drummer Boy Richie Black, American Leatherman Jeffrey Cooper, American Leather Boy Bryan "Pup" Mullikin, and Ms. World Leather Annie Romano-Blas.

The biggest round of applause happened when IML first runner-up Darrell Moyers joined Stefan and Houston in a show of solidarity.

Representing the Atlanta Eagle Bar, Brian Copeman jumped right in and was instrumental in getting all the title holders to sign up, with a big hand from former IMSL Jo Blas.

When the introductions were finished, two minutes of silence were observed throughout the seven-block area of the fair, in

honor of those who perished on September 11. To see all the major title holders of the world with their heads bowed in reverence and respect was a moving sight indeed!

On Friday night, the Leather Daddies of San Francisco managed to raise almost \$3,000 with their leather auction at the Eagle, and the weekend was off and running.

On Saturday night, September 29, the inaugural of the California Leather Man Contest at Club Townsend came off splendidly, with a hearty crowd on hand for the competition. Lenny Broberg and Frank Nowicki shared the emcee duties, and did an outstanding job, as only they can. Donna Sachet opened the show with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem.

Three men threw their hats in the ring for the contest: Mike

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, October 4

Another big basket contest happens at The Edge Bar, with Danny Williams hosting, and the Old Bag dicking around.

The search for Mr. Leather Europe culminates in a big contest in Stuttgart, Germany.

Weekend, October 4-7

In Florida, it's the International Mr. Drummer & Boy contest.

In Utica, NY, the Utica Tri's stage their North Atlantic Leather Man and Boy contest.

The Golden Gate Guards hold their 15th annual weekend run at beautiful Camp Mendocino, with all the usual amenities, for only \$135.

In Los Angeles, the Oedipus MC stage their 43rd anniversary weekend run to Lake Isabella, for a \$45 fee. For details, email OedipusRegent@aol.com.

The annual Death Valley Bike Ride to Point Zabriskie leaves from Castro St. at 0800; rendezvous at Point Zabriskie on Sunday at High Noon. For details, email mcpstyle@well.com, or phone 563-6100.

Sunday, October 7

It's the Castro Street Fair, with booths, food, booze, music, muscles, and cruising all day long in the open air.

The Phoenix Uniform Club hosts the beer/soda.

bust at the Eagle, from 1500-1800, for \$8. There'll be a \$100 gift certificate for Stomper's raffled off. Dennis Silva emcees. It's always a hot time with this group!

Tuesday, October 9

"Bondage Buddies" debuts at 933 Harrison. The doors are open 2100 to 2300; play until 0200 next day. Call 777-HEAD.

Wednesday, October 10

Didn't get enough last night? It's Golden Shower Buddies, also at 933 Harrison. For info, click on www.blowbuddies.com or call 777-HEAD.

The Ring discusses "Easy Bondage with Webs," and not at Club Eros this time. For info & location, email the_ring@ix.netcom.com.

Friday, October 12

Leather Extravaganza at Atelier Gallery on upper Market St.. See details above. Tickets are available at Daddy's & Mister S, or call 863-4296.

Saturday, October 13

Cigar, dungeon & wrestling party at the Castlebar tonight. For details, call 970-9700.

Hoedown at the Galleria Design Center, to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, featuring the Bare Chest Calendar 2002 men.

POLKSTRASSE

Back to abnormal

by Sweet Lips

It looks like we can go back to business as usual for a while, and in my neighborhood, that means getting out to the local pub, showing off a bit of leg, cozying up to the dolls with the bouffant hairdos, shaking booty, and getting plenty schnockered!

Lots of interesting events are coming up, so you have no excuse to nurse cocktails in your underwear at home when you can dress up in your finest gowns and get out and about among your sisters.

For starters, that gorgeous hunk Emperor Tom Basch is having an "Emperor's Night Out" on Saturday, October 6. For \$12 you can partake of the revelry at three different bars, the Edge, Club Rendez-Vous, and Marlena's. It'll be a hoot!

Speaking of Marlena's Empress Maxine is still on the plank there,

so next time you drop by, raise a toast to the old gal.

And speaking of old gals, our friend and party favorite Dick Deemer only just got back from Fire Island, and already he's off to Puerto Vallarta. Some of us are wondering when he plans to settle down!

Here at the Rendez-Vous, things are hopping once again. No way will we let a bunch of terrorists disrupt our routine!

We've got a male strip night happening at 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 7, that features the sexy "Men of Exotica." You'll think you've died and gone to heaven!

That vamp Cockatelia presents her "Drag Assault" this Friday, October 5, and you won't want to miss it, because it features the

shockingly talented Gypsy Calabrese, Karen Kill, Manly Lennox, and Sofonda Boyz—a herd of the wildest drag freaks in captivity!

On alternating Friday nights, the club features live jazz/blues bands, so when you want to feel that funky vibe and nurse a drink or two, come on down! The next jazz night is Friday, October 12.

On Saturday, October 13, the club will be having a "Country Hoe Down," so pull on your boots and Levi's for a hoot of a time.

One last thing: if you haven't stuck your head inside the Gangway bar in a while, get on over there, especially while John Weiss is pouring drinks and dispensing wisdom and wisecracks. He's drawing great crowds! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

"Trev" Trevino and Glennon Sutter, both of San Francisco, and Kevin Casey of Los Angeles. Judges Stefan Mueller, Scott Reikofski, Joseph Bean, Jo Blas, Dan Hughes, Peter Fitz and Houston Davenport admitted choosing the winner was no easy task.

Contestants are required to perform a fantasy in this competition, and Glennon Sutter wrecked the crowd with his version of "King Kong" (played by Mike Hargiss). It brought the house down. Kevin's fantasy was a rough and tumble uniform scenario that brought a lively audience response, and "Trev" chose to "tell" his fantasy, which proved to be extremely erotic.

Between the speeches and "hot wear" appearances, and just before the winners were announced, Vicky Shepard managed to get the crowd clapping and stomping with her vivacious rendition of old and new hits.

Finally, tallymaster Tim Wong, assisted by Darrell Moyers, finished adding up scores, and announced Kevin Casey has won the title, with Glennon Sutter the first runner-up. They were "medal-lioned" by current American Leather Man Jeffrey Cooper and American Leather Boy Bryan "Pup" Mullikin.

The victory party at Daddy's bar afterward resounded loud and clear up and down Castro Canyon late into the night.

Mr. Casey will compete for the American Leather Man title in Washington, D.C. next April at American Brotherhood Weekend. I daresay, he will definitely make an impression.

Leather Pride Week 2001 was a rousing success, despite the tragedies that befell New York City and Washington, D.C. on September 11. The event was a sincere and poignant manifestation of the flexibility, stamina, and caring of leather communities around the world.

Yes, a certain hedonism prevailed at the Folsom Street Fair, but at no time were our fallen brother and sister citizens were not forgotten.

Next up: Drummer

At the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida, all is ready as the Int'l Mr. Drummer contest gets underway beginning tonight,

Thursday, October 4. Several of the candidates were in San Francisco for the Folsom Street Fair, but will be back in Florida in plenty of time. Daniel Clark and Richie Black will become history at the contest, passing their titles to two new winners. Thanks Daniel and the irrepresible Richie for a great year! I'm happy to be one of the judges. To learn the contest results soon after they happen, go to the Web and click on www.leatherpage.com, or check out my column next week.

Leather extravaganza

Glennon Sutter once again takes the reins in producing Leather Extravaganza, to take

place on Friday, October 12 at 1800 hours at Atelier Gallery on Upper Market St.

Exceeding even the lofty standards of Martha Stewart, Glennon's "Pig Out" belies its name. It offers excellent wines, cuisine, décor and themes, and it should make for yet another successful benefit on behalf of the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Tickets for the dinner and show cost \$100. Those ticket buyers also receive half-price tickets for Ingu Yun's "Hoedown" later in the month. Tickets for cocktails and entertainment from 2000 to midnight cost only \$50. They are available at Daddy's and Mr. S. Buy yours now! ▼

DANCE

Hula plays the Palace



The Hula Show is an evening-length revue from artistic director Patrick Makuakane (pictured) and his company Na Lei Hula I Ka Wekiu, running October 6-7 and 12-14 at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. The offerings include both traditional hula and Makuakane's innovative brand of hula maa, or progressive hula.

Premieres include dances to '50s music from the Golden Age of Hula, recreations of 19th-century hula, and contemporary numbers set to progressive trance music. The company will also perform their signature work set to Roberta Flack singing "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face."

The Hula Show is at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon St. For tickets (\$25-\$30), call (415) 392-4400. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Tony & Joe
 From Portland. Can I make reservations down here for Folsom Street Street Fair? I met you here on July 28 and want to continue at Loading Dock. Call- ☎ 71617

Big Black Truck On Castro St.
 8/28/01 you: cute guy with friend. Me: guy with friends on rainbow steps. You smiled at me. Left note on your truck. Interested in meeting? ☎ 71618

Built For Sex
 You: Broad-shoulders, black hair, green tank, seen Sat. morning at Chat Cafe. Me: baseball cap, red hair, on laptop, kept glancing at you. I want to lick you! ☎ 71619

Spam - The Meat Product
 Bar, Sunday 9/2. You noticed my hat and my magazine. I noticed your smile. We talked from Embarcadero to Powell- not long enough? Let's talk some more. Maybe over brunch? ☎ 71636

Highlands Hot Tub 9/5
 I'm Kirk, you from City. We discussed the obnoxious guy. I enjoyed your company. Dinner? ☎ 71637

Elevator 45 Castro St. 4th Floor
 Thursday 8/23 11:30am, me leaving Doc's waiting for elevator, you coming out elevator to Wellspring suite 423. I smiled, you smiled back. Wish we talked then, let's talk now! ☎ 71638

If Seeking Blind Dates,
 Your ad does not belong here. Please place your ads in the appropriate columns. Blatant acts of desperation are not attractive. If not seeking someone you've met, back off, okay? ☎ 71660

Jose From Venezuela
 Why didn't I get your number on Friday? You got me right where you wanted me twice and it was incredible. I'm spoiled for other men. Get in touch. Rick S 71661

Marty! Saw You At Steamworks In August.
 We met back in 1993- you drove up to my cabin at Monte Rio (R. River). Let's reconnect/exchange current phone #'s etc. ok? Gettys. ☎ 71683

Diamond Heights Safeway 9/18
 9:30pm. You: red-hair, goatee. Me: brown and gray, beard. My fritos were bigger than yours but you had more spaghetti sauce. "Cup of Earl Grey sometime?" ☎ 71684

-Hunk By Chevron Station-
 Thursday, September 20 at 7:30p.m. we exchanged smiling faces while you were walking through the Chevron station on 17th with a package. You were wearing light colored shirt. I'm the dark haired fellow with a goatee and was wearing jeans and walking with a friend down Market Street. Wish I'd said hello. Meet for coffee? ☎ 71685

America Leaving Detour
 You leaving Detour October 8. You'll be missed here in San Francisco. Good luck in San Diego. Keep in touch. Seventy. ☎ 71686

Wow! Asn @ Cheesecake Factory
 Vgl young Asian w/friend-date? In lobby 9/22, 9:30am very direct looks! Me: leaving you being seated. Couldn't speak- definitely lets meet! Dream boy you are very cute. ☎ 71687

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

SF GWM 28 6'3" 200 Blond, Green Smooth, masc, top. Looking for Russian or Ukrainian boys under 30yo for possible ltr or whatever. ☎ 71622

Lonely Handsome 38yrs Seeking
 Life partner. 6 feet 180lbs in great shape. Me: fun, caring, healthy, sexy, good catch. Looking to settle down in ltr. Prefer beefy, furry, facial hair, sweet and caring guy. ☎ 71620

Sonoma/ Marin
 Petaluma writer re-entering dating world after 19yrs. Libido intact. No emotional baggage. HIV+. Looking for someone over 50, N/S, who likes beagles. ☎ 71621

Masculine Friendly 38yrs. Latin
 5'7", 157w, athletic body versatile honest, easy going. You: versatile Asian, White, under 5'10", 40 yrs old young looking, versatile. Enthusiastic slim N/D, N/S, no bar scenes. Let's meet and see what happens. ☎ 71623

Kitchen Apron Seeks Tool Belt
 Masculine, 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome, East Bay man seeks call the shots kind of man, HIV- for fun romantic times, I'll cook and you drive, I'm all American. ☎ 71624

Baker ISO Hot Buns
 Which are sweet, spicy & sensual of a GWM, GWM, HIV- 36-50 for good times, dining out, movies, theatre & massage. Me: GWM 43, 5'9", S & P/blue. ☎ 71625

Best Buds
 Hot, masculine, muscular Italian top looking for a masculine inshape buddy to "hang" with. Drink, travel, cruise, or maybe "get-off" with. Race, age, looks, are not important. ☎ 71639

Rugged Guy
 Masculine, athletic, dominant, cool, witty, smooth, Asian, 5'4, 5'8", 155 seeking similar clean-shaven, lean/muscular WM into workouts, running, sports, outdoors, hiking, films, ethnic foods, travel and the arts. ☎ 71640

HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM
 41yo 5'10", 155 honest healthy in shape attractive romantic easy going top/ vers. Movies dancing, playing tennis. You similar 35-45 bottom/vers proportionate no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71641

Go To Church With Me
 GWM 39, 6'4", 230, social drinker, N/S, sexually versatile and adventurous, professional seeks: Practicing Catholic, 35-55, employed, HIV+, honest, and hopeful for friendship and possibly more. Race, weight unimportant. ☎ 71662

Northbay Muscle
 Bi WM seeks another cute big buff dude like myself. Clean cut, healthy, cool, muscular, big arms, chest, tall, HIV-, for hanging out and having fun. Be normal, masc, ripped. ☎ 71663

Bi WM, 36, Educated, Heavyset
 Not into gay scene. Seeks friends for movies, dinner, etc. Possible ltr for the right person. ☎ 71664

Good Catch - Partner and Friend
 Seeking both. Me: GWM, 50, top, educated, professional, and enjoy many interests. You: GWM, 50-60, educated, bottom, and easygoing. Let's talk, have dinner, drinks, smoke a little, converse, and have good sex (maybe not all the same evening). Please be beefy, beardless, single. Sensitive/responsible nips a big plus. Pls. call ☎ 71665

Furry Bear Daddy Sks Boy 25-40
 Late 40's GWM, 5'9", 185#, well hung, attractive wide range of interests (theatre, C/W dancing, etc.) and activities (vanilla to leather) available & sane. ☎ 71667

19th Avenue 9/15 4:00pm
 You beautiful young Asian man in dark green s/wgn. Me in blue BMW. Call! ☎ 71688

Sexislim Cute Boy 4 GWM 24-40
 Me 36yrs old 5'7" 142lbs "only muscle" long brown hair, masc, honest, sweet easygoing. Very nice toll for you enjoy. ☎ 71668

Wanted: Furry Cocksucker
 A guy who's really into sucking big dick, body contact, making out. I'm 5'9", 165#, 53 and very well hung. Passionate, imaginative oral: mouth and words. ☎ 71689

Please This Gentleman...
 Older straight gentleman, dominant but polite seeks a quiet, compliant slim person to perform Fellatio. ☎ 71690

"Son Wanted!"
 For fun and friendship, dinners, hiking, camping. Bound to have fun. Asian a plus. By WM early retired, 5'6", 140#. ☎ 71691

I'm Looking 4 BM Top!
 I'm 38yrs old (looks younger) 5'7", 157# medium body. Hobbies: work-out, music, movies, etc. Looking 4 BM under 5'10" H, looks younger, slim to m.b. no drugs, smoke, size unimportant. ☎ 71692

Young Cute Russian
 Looking for another Russian, European or intelligent American to share love, common interests, etc. I am healthy and sexy. You must be the same and no older than 40. ☎ 71693

Love To Suck Cocks
 Asian and Latino men for long regular sessions. Me: GWM, 45, 6'2", 165lbs. Slim. I go deep and take it all. You won't be disappointed. Your for pleasure. ☎ 71666

-San Francisco Dreaming-
 Successful, handsome and adventurous Physician and Surgeon is moving to San Francisco to pursue his dreams. I am 39, 5'11", 155lbs. I am honest, intelligent, and I have a warm heart. I am patiently and selectively searching for a young professional or student for friendship leading to a long term, committed relationship. You may say I am a dreamer but I hope one day to find that special person and, together, we will experience all the joy life has to offer. ☎ 71694

SEEKING ADVENTURE

"Nasty Muscular Men!!!!"
 Willing to join a very fun group of delicious men who are completely "Gods", give us a call, you want be sorry you did. ☎ 71058

Oral Service
 Masculine White man 5'10", 170#, 7" w/c, large balls, HIV negative, ddf, healthy, need regular service. ☎ 71626

Cute Boy Toy For GBM or GAM, 25-45
 Me: 29, GWM, 6', 180#, brigr, fit, smooth, bottom, great kisser. You: like to get sucked, rimmed, to fuck and to cum a lot. ☎ 71627

GWM 28, HIV+, Sks GM, HIV+
 Top for reg. not sex, poss. friend. Discreet encounters. Days/eves. ☎ 71628

Horny Blk Bottom
 Velvet light ass. 6', 175lbs., 8.5", smooth swimmers build, chocolate complexion. Seeking hung bigger tops for long pnp. Height, weight proportionate. ☎ 71630

ISO Bi Curious
 I'm looking for another man that is bi or curious. You are 18-28 swimmers built versatile. I'm curious and always horny. ☎ 71642

Black Male Seeks Hot Sex
 35yr old male looking for other males for hot J/D and blow jobs. Must be 25-35 and HIV-. I give great head. Please reply soon. Thnx. ☎ 71643

Be My Sweet Hairly Daddy
 GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncut, hairy, seeks extremely hairy, daddy types 40-60 for romance & fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. ☎ 71644

Teacher Needed
 For bi curious W/M be w/a smooth to lite hairy 20's to 40's who gives oral anal lessons clean shaven. Keep me after school to practice oral service anal lessons. ☎ 71645

J/D-Oral Buddy In The Area
 Jones-Franklin/Clay-Sutter & Vicinity- GWM 51, 5'10", 163#, HIVneg, nice guy- why do it alone? Let's share mutual excitement & pleasure- your place. ☎ 71646

Blow Buddy Sought
 Slim W male 54yrs HIVneg hairy uncut hung seeks W male 50yrs and over HIV- for mutual cock sucking and ball licking ++ for big balls. ☎ 71647

GWM Or GLM Bottom Wanted
 By sexy, hot, smart & cute GAM top 35, 5'6", 155# great shape. Like to get rimmed, f-k, be slim or beefy, under 45 7" or large. No fats. ☎ 71648

"Inexperienced"
 Young 18-21 goodlooking and honest who like some sexual loving, with no strings attached. Just safe sex. No fats or fems. ☎ 71673

College Grad 48yo Handsome
And fit Latino wants fit GWM fuck-buddy for hot oral sex thin a pls. ☎ 71649

Your Personal Exhibitionist
I'm always horny adventure & flashing myself for you. You are 18-28 swimmers built hung I'm the GWM to make you happy. ☎ 71650

Hot Phone For Effeminate Gays
You: effeminate gay submissive into phonesex. Me: bi very masculine dominant into using effeminate gay I get me off on phone when she's gone. I call you SF only. ☎ 71651

Inventive Top ISO Other
Tops-2 tops adds new dimen to sex play. Be 35-55, h/w prop. Muscles & hairy A+ ans add to hear recorded detail. ☎ 71653

Handsome Latino 48 HIV- Seeks Fuckbuddy
Into GWMs. Am college educated, physically fit. Pls no over-weights. Will answer all calls. ☎ 71654

Smooth And Slender Wanted!!
Bi-sexual 6'1", 200lb. W/M is seeking a well hung smooth and slender gay male for regular get-togethers. You are the top, I am the bottom!! ☎ 71655

ISO Young & Horny
You are young hung, always horny. 18-28. Swimmers built Latino's a plus or mixed. I'm GWM & always hairy. ☎ 71656

White Top With 9" Cock Wants Hot
White or Latino ass to fuck. You be under 40 and submissive. I am 57 yrs old. 6'0", 165lbs drk brn eyes glasses big 9" dick love to fuck hot butts. ☎ 71669

Eager Virgin Bottom In Need
Of gentle patient experienced a/w top w/small to large endowment to accept my oral desires on you then be seduced into giving up my bottom to gentle then hard pounding. ☎ 71670

"50"
Designer of mens underwear seeking 18-24 muscular of slim no strings attached sex. No fats of fems. All races okay. Large swollen nipples a plus. ☎ 71671

"Strong Suction"
I love sucking big swollen nipples, with muscular chest. And nice clean asses for fucking. Big round asses a plus with muscular type lets. No fats or fems. ☎ 71672

ISO Men With Foreskin To Suck
This mature in-shape W/M loves foreskin. You must be lean (no pudginess) and trim. Tight or loose foreskin. The longer, the better. Blind meat ok. ☎ 71674

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex!! ☎ SAFE

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncut, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 38-58. For romance and fun. Must be outgoing & affectionate. ☎ 71675

East Bay J/O
Tall well exercised smooth tan GWM late 40s wants East Bay J/O pals. Brn hair eyes go4. Edge, tit play, sweat, squirt. Friendly easy going over 40 preferred. ☎ 71676

Oversexed Versatile Pnp Bottom
GWM 5'8" 140# HIV+, 8" cut, excellent cock sucker with tight ass. Looking for versatile or top man for hot pnp action! ☎ 71052

Jack Worship
I'm good looking, SWM, 38/180/6', fit bi, totally discreet, hairy, br/br, clean, HIV-neg, sks primarily straight, clean-cut, young, WM, HIV-neg for massage, showoff, oral anything safe; regularly in SF. ☎ 71677

Bi WM
Looking for a few younger Wt masculine men as close friends to give oral sex to after an evening together. I like the beach, movies, and dining out. To mention a few, always open to suggestions. Monterey area. ☎ 71695

Are You A Berkeley Student?
Free room near campus in exchange for affection and safe erotic pleasures. Me: handsome, fit, easygoing professional GWM, 43, 6'0", 170, HIV-. You: handsome, under 30 HIV-, trim affectionate boy. ☎ 71652

Our Eyes Met, Our Spirits....
Exchanged energy. Just for that moment nothing else mattered. let this Aug 11, 01 be our first day as one. K- ☎ 71696

Short Hairy Ruffian Wanted
5'8", 140# hairy muscled tattooed skinhead leatherman ISO shorter hairy muscled buddy (Folsom visitor or local boy) into rough sweaty muscle struggle, aggres, punching, sucking, hard butt-banging. ☎ 71697

Young European Boy For Training
I am in search for a sexy dominant boy in his 20's or 30's for any sort of training. I am young, sexy, cute and very submissive. ☎ 71698

(Try This!!) Hot Blond Bottom
5'10", 160lbs. 38yo athletic, vgl, tattoos, good attitude into in-line skating, restaurants, foreign cinema, laughing. U under 45 in-shape, vgl, any race w/good attitude. ☎ 71049

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbells, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190#. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71050

Feed Me Your Big Bk Cock!
34yr. old GWM 6'2", 250lbs. HIV-. Seeks well endowed Bk men to service. 8"++ only. 25-50yr old, HIV-. I need it on a regular basis. Straight men ok. ☎ 71051

Big Men
WLM, 6', 165lbs dk hr. ISO affectionate chubby men who enjoy lots of kissing, cuddling, & sensual oral pleasure. Big eaters, gainers, beer drinkers welcome. Smoking ok but not into drugs, gay scene, attitude. ☎ 71629

Recycle Your Piss!
Old age sucks, licks, rims, obeys. You're built, masculine, dominant. I'm over 75, asking for verbal abuse and sexual degradation. What 100% top would enjoy my groveling submission? East Bay. ☎ 71053

LESBIAN

Attention Butch Lesbian Cops
So. Ca. GWF 42 ISO above for friends pen/email pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Be sincere, no games or bi's pleas. ☎ 71631

FETISHES

Seeking Sonoma Co. Show offs
Mature guy loves being teased by slender guys 18-30 who love to flaunt it. Exhibitionist? Pose for photos? Videotape? Do it in semi-public places? Reward for unique talent. ☎ 71632

Dale Earnhard Look-A-Like?
Endowed Black butt banger wants you on your back, legs up, lubed and ready for a long pooling. Must be experienced, easy to reach. ☎ 71633

Daytime Ass-Hole Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71634

"Fuck Me!"
Very masculine GWM, 42, 6', 175, trim and hairy loves being a bottom, also give great head and making you cream is what I want. I'm looking for regular fuckbuds or even once is okay. Age, ethnicity and size is not important, if you're a top. ☎ 71635

Master Seeks Slave
Handsome, 6'4", 200lb, blue-eyed, brown haired military type seeks nice little slave boy who can take orders meet my every need and remember his place. Call me! ☎ 71657

Drag-Queen- Interlude- Ravish--
Me- bi- HM, 53, ISO drag-queens for daytime run, J/O, French-Greek, 69, pluses. Redheads, cigar-smokers, clean-sober, discreet. S 71658

Poindexters?
WM, beard, musclebutt seeks geeky, 40+ scientist type to slowly expose, examine, sniff, tongue, probe my blushing butt cheeks. Nasal, nerdy verbal a plus. ☎ 71678

The Thicker, The Better...
Endowed, sincere and honest Black daddy is totally turned on by submissive men with thick mustaches (but no other facial hair). What would please you? ☎ 71679

Sex Wrestling
Want to work out some aggression? Let's fight, then play. Give stats when responding. 6ft 200lbs. ☎ 71680

Want Clean Ass-Holes To Eat
U slim WM, LM, AM who wants his hole sucked and played with. Age unimportant but must be trim and firm. I'm older W/M, 6'2", 186lbs. Be clean. My home. ☎ 71681

Corporate Discipline...
Mature gentleman gives and takes with sophisticated naked man; married, weekdays ok. Marks. ☎ 71682

Seeking Serious Nipple Workout
Buddy. GWM 46yr old, 200# stocky, "nipple" bottom bear huge erect nips! Brn/brn, salt/pepper goatee, tats, piercing, smoker. ISO masc dominant "nipple" workout buddy for serious nip wkout sessions w/growth in mind. Smokers A+. Please call. ☎

Young Slave For Training
Very cute and submissive European boy is looking for a dominant and cute master in his 20's or 30's for any training you choose. Total obedience guaranteed. ☎ 71055

Will Be 2nd Slave
Will drink all liquids, serve you, clean up, then sit in corner or leave. I'm 59, slim, leather, + healthy. ☎ 71056

Let's Get Kinky
S/W/M 36yo into B/D, C/B harness, lile spankings, dominated, ass at then fucked, singles and couples. ☎ 71057

COUPLES

ISO Young Adventures
I love group sex with Latino, Blacks, or mix a plus. You are 18-28 swimmers built looking horny. Me GWM always horny for you. ☎ 71659

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

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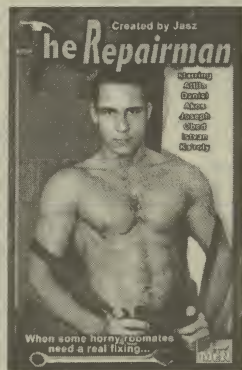
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The Repairman



When some horny...comates need a real fixing...



Author Stephen Elliott worries San Francisco makes him soft.

Truth and consequences

With debut novelist Stephen Elliott

by Gregg Shapiro

If you like what you read in Stephen Elliott's debut novel *A Life Without Consequences* (MacAdam/Cage, \$25), a fictionalized telling of his experiences in the youth group-home system in Chicago, there's more where that came from. The prolific 30-year-old Elliott's second novel is being published next year, and he has already begun work on a few different projects, including a third novel. Bisexual, Elliott currently lives in the Bay Area, where he is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University.

Gregg Shapiro: I detected certain similarities between the novel and your author's bio.

Stephen Elliott: *A Life Without Consequences* is the most autobiographical thing I've ever written. There's fiction in there: I created characters to further the story, I invented a certain arc. But the places in the novel are very real, the group homes. These are the places where I spent my youth. I left home when I was 13, was arrested when I was 14. I was shuffled into the system and ended up in a variety of homes, just like the ones in the book. Homes where you have 30 kids in a room. Homes that are a little better — maybe have two or three kids in a room. I think a lot of people don't know that these

places even exist. There are something like 60,000 children out there living in these kinds of places, without parents, without foster care, just being watched after by hourly staff. The purpose of the book, really, is to raise awareness about these kinds of places.

Why did you choose to tell this particular story in fiction, rather than nonfiction?

William Morris who contacted me. She thinks there's a lot of interest, and I think she's working with MacAdam/Cage. I also wrote an article about the Nader campaign that was published in the *Chicago Sun* earlier this year, and a film company is trying to buy the rights to that. They started writing a screenplay based on that article. But you never know with film people, because film people lie so much. Or they're

"I think that men are stripping for different reasons than women. A lot of them are doing it for emotional reasons. They're looking for something else, not money."

I wanted to protect the identity of some people, for one thing. For another, I wanted to talk from the perspective of the 14-year-old through the 18-year-old. Beyond that, sometimes life doesn't wrap itself up so neatly into these stories. It doesn't have the same arc. I wanted to give it an arc that was more accessible to people.

There's a cinematic quality to the story. Is there interest in doing a film version?

A galley copy of the book was passed along to an agent at

overly optimistic, one of the two for sure.

What's your second book about?

The book is called *What It Means To Love You*. It's about a couple of characters who work as strippers in gay bars in Chicago. It's based on my time as a stripper, which was what I did when I was 21, after I finished college. I ended up stripping in the Bijou, Berlin, and The Lucky Horse-shoe, as well as the Manhole and Vortex. It's really about that experience and that time. It's a lot darker, I think, than *A Life Without Consequences*. It explores the motivation behind people who are strippers. Unless you're really great-looking and you're doing Chippendales or something, which I wasn't, the money is not that great. I think that men are stripping for different reasons than women are stripping. Female strippers tend to make a lot of money. The book is really an exploration of the reasons behind how these guys get into it and why they're doing it. A lot of them, maybe not most, but a reasonable percentage are doing it for emotional reasons. They're looking for something else, and it's not money.

How do you like living in the Bay Area?

I love San Francisco. It really makes you soft. There's no real ghetto in San Francisco. There are some bad areas, but there's nothing like the South Side of Chicago or the West Side of Chicago, some of the places I was in as a kid. The weather is 70° every day of the year. It's always sandals and a sweater. It's easy. Sometimes I worry that it makes me too soft.

Have you begun working on your next book?

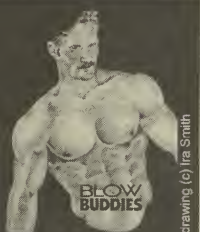
Yeah, I'm over a hundred pages into a book called *Seymour*. I'm also working on a book of nonfiction and a book called *The Poker Report*. I've been writing a report every week about a poker game that we play out here. I've been stringing it together into more of a story of San Francisco. I have quite a few books going on right now. I've got boxes of writing. ▼

Author Stephen Elliott will be reading on Wednesday, October 17 at Modern Times Bookstore in San Francisco.

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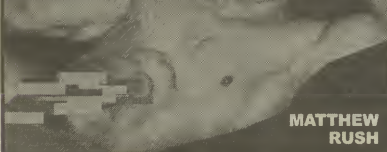
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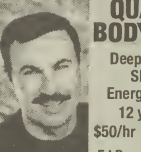
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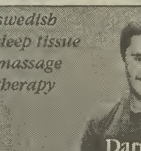
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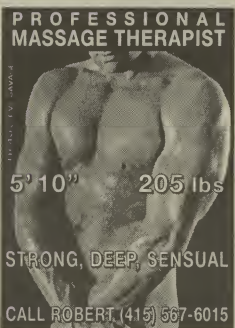
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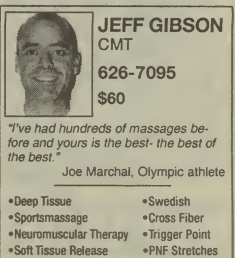
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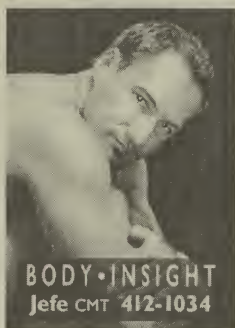
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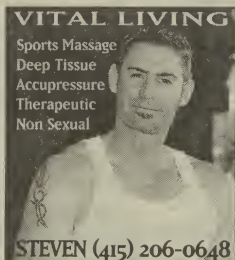
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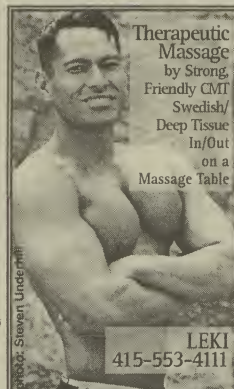
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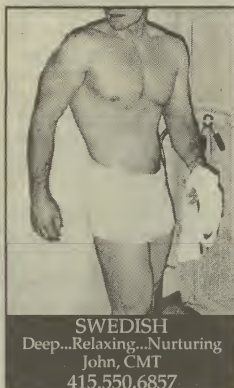
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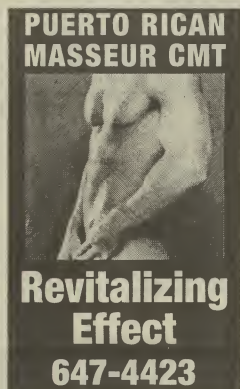
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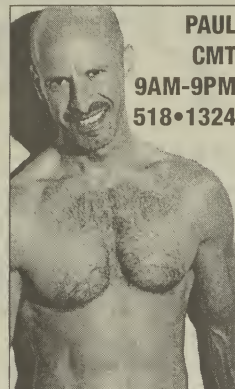
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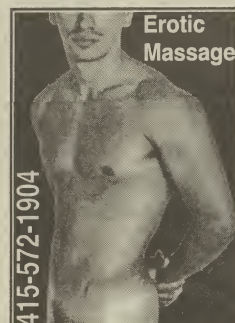


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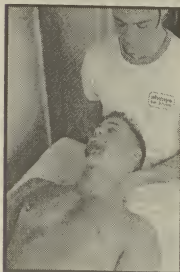
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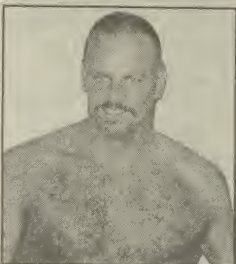
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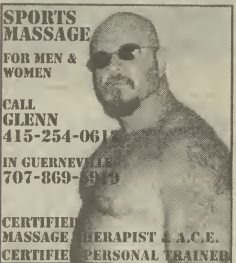


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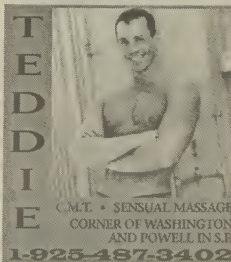


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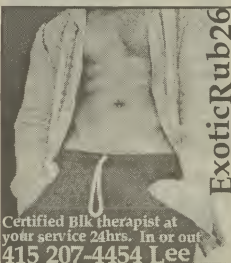
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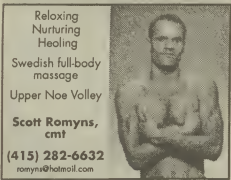
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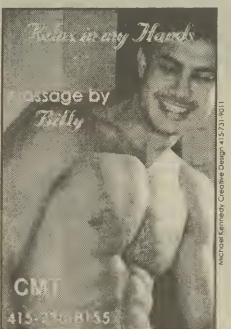


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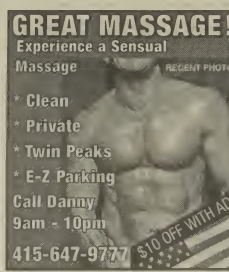
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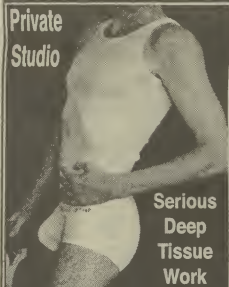
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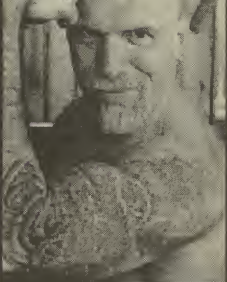
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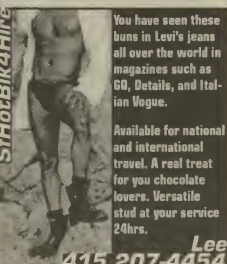
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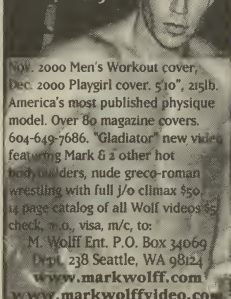
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So Italian Top - out only
Angelo 415-414-4664



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9"
24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
Dark blonde hair
hazel eyes
washboard stomach
27" waist - versatile
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for immediate callback

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Mark Wolff
in S.F. Oct. 3-6



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Handsome Hairy Hung
6' 160# 35 AllTop
Reliable Professional
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Kink
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\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817

Mike, 36, 5'10", 200#, BI/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hung
In/Out \$100 (415) 863-8932

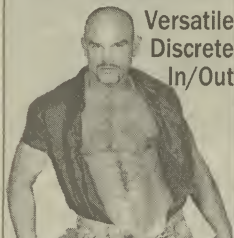
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Slender, cute, open-minded. Massage
too! In/out Travel 208-8099

Handsome hung Italian 34, 6', 160
CHOKO ON THIS!
Tight lean bod hairy chest/legs
all top masc dominant real 10x7
gentle strength & arousing edge
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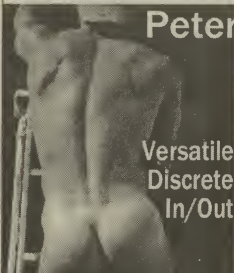
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gentle daddy age 45 well hung
outcalls only \$60 Dave 503-1629

57" 135# sexy, slim, smooth 908-8888
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Hot, horny, handsome \$65in/\$85out

Asian 31 5'7" 135 Tom 412-7261
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FOOT FETISH TOP
Tall, dark and handsome. Size 13
feet, 8+ uncut. Serve me! 260-5063

21, NEW IN TOWN!
5'9", 135#, 6'c, Thin Swimmer's Build,
Great Legs & Ass, Cute, Boyish & Playful.
In-Out, Versatile/Open Minded. 24/7.
Nick: 415-414-4200.

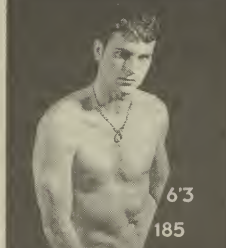
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7" Vers
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6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,
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25yo/o, 5'11", 172lbs, big uncut,
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Open minded discreet with no
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Tall, goodlooking & go-teed 24hrs.

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Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30" w, 8" 246-4460

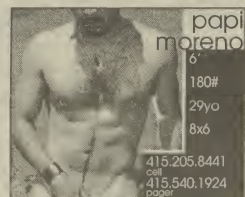
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Kevin pg#605-5328 in/out 24/7

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MUSCLE PUNK
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Lean smooth leather top. 33
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Slim, smooth bottom guy, 33
HOT FUN IN MARIN!
I love to please. Andy 461-4135



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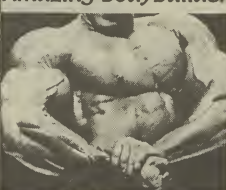
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Dominant Daddy

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Brown Hair,
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moustache,
7" Uncut.

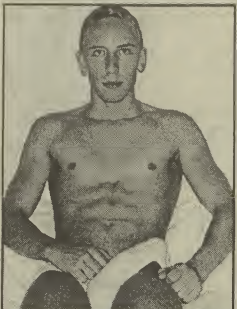
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true 10x8 tool very good!k
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Great thighs/calves & big manly
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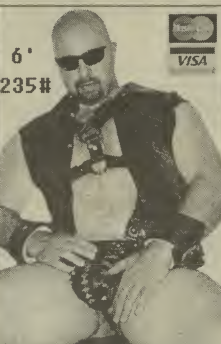
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I am a cute 24 yr old 1/2 Latin 1/2
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9" uncut Russian top- 6'2", 165#
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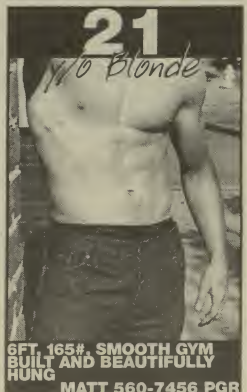
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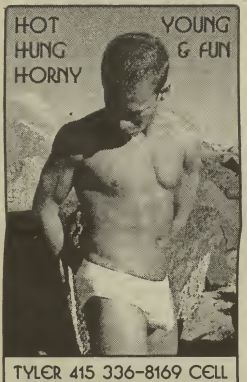
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respectful
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5'10. 160#

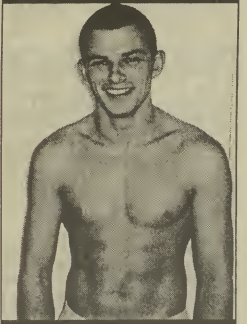


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Nine inches! Sexy, fun, intimate.
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and butt. Call Jay 948-8131 E40

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Naturally smooth runners build,
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348-4425 or EscortInSJ@hotmail.com E40

BIKER TOP, ITALIAN
6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,
thick stache & tool 13ee feet
Bruno 415-596-6235 E40

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top, smooth, suave, playful 415 251-0261 E44

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5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8" 246-4460 E41

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Open minded discreet with no
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Display advertising rates
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Minimum \$10 charge.

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Card Number

Expiration Date

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Name

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Number of Issues

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Amount Enclosed

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